

## THE TIMES

Muslim riots  
against  
Americans  
spread

Anti-American violence spread further in the Muslim world, where the United States is rumoured to be responsible for the attack on the Great Mosque in Mecca. The Beduin, who seized the mosque at gunpoint, were driven back to the perimeter wall yesterday. They have proclaimed new Mahdi to lead Islam.

## Shock waves from the Iranian revolution

Edward Mortimer  
Shock waves from the Iranian revolution and from the seizure of a financial sect at the shrine of the Kaaba in Mecca continued to reverberate through the Muslim world yesterday, the third day of the 1400 in the Islamic calendar.

Anti-American rioting spread to Turkey, where Muslim students shouting anti-American and anti-Zionist slogans stormed the residence of the United States' consul general in Izmir, and to Bangladesh where about 300 students demonstrated in front of the American Embassy in Dacca, accusing the CIA of involvement in the Mecca attack.

Damascus, a Syrian radio broadcast also blamed the United States for the incident, saying an immediate American protest.

In Mecca itself, fighting continued inside the shrine with official reports saying that government troops had driven Beduin insurgents to the great majority of Muslims whether Sunnis or Shiites.

The insurgents are not members of the Shia sect to which Shiites belong, as the early reports had said, coming from the Oteiba, an important Beduin tribe in central Saudi Arabia, thought to be members of the Ishaqani, or Ahl-e-Sunnah, a religious order which adheres to an officially puritanical version of the Sunnah, or orthodox Islam. The Ishaqani were suspected of being anti-American, but to now Muslins against each other.

British plan  
sets up  
5 sites for  
front men

Detailed British proposals for a ceasefire presented to the Rhodesia conference to 15 sites in Rhodesia for riotous front forces to assemble to allow monitoring, a front-line "personnel" will report with arms and equipment to a larger number of intermediate collection points, at which a front representative and monitoring team, no police or defence forces, will be present.

Front supporters would be granted safe passage from collection points to assembly places. The process, the front say, should take no more than seven days after ending of hostilities.

Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Mugabe, the Patriotic front leaders, are flying to Dar es Salaam at the weekend to leaders of the five front-African states loosely involved in Rhodesia, according to Mr. Willy Muso, the chief spokesman for Nkomo. The front leaders will talk about the state of conference and the prospects for the future.

Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Muso will also brief Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique and the British proposals for a ceasefire.

If the front-line states accept

the proposals the Patriotic front leaders will be in a position to announce their acceptance when they return to London early next week.

Prisoners freed, and British flag pulled down, page 7

Mr Fitt quits party  
over stand on talks

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Mr. Gerard Fitt, leader and founder of the Social Democratic and Labour Party in Ulster, resigned from the party yesterday after a fundamental disagreement with the majority of his colleagues.

He had resigned because "I could no longer live with my own conscience as a socialist and as a social democrat", he told a press conference at the Commons.

His departure comes after his failure to persuade the executive of his party to attend the Government's proposed four-party conference on the revolution in Northern Ireland.

"It is obvious there is no meeting of minds between me and my colleagues", he said.

Mr. Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who dismissed suggestions that the proposed conference was "futile", paid tribute to Mr. Fitt in the Commons. He said: "It must be a sad moment for him to have felt it necessary to resign from the leadership of the party which he founded."

Answering Northern Ireland in the Commons, Mr. Atkins said he hoped that the conference, where all the parties sit down together, was the best way forward.

Background and profile, p. 2

Leading article, p. 13

BL chief warns  
union over  
dismissed man

The union directly involved in the dismissal of Mr. Derek Robinson, a British Leyland engineer at Longbridge, was warned by Mr. Pat Lowry, BL director of personnel, that industrial action in his support was jeopardizing the company's future. Meanwhile, Mr. Mostyn Evans, Transport and General Workers' union general secretary, called for a meeting between unions, Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, and Mr. Lowry. Page 2

Proposals to reduce  
Britain's EEC burden

The European Commission has proposed that Britain should get a refund of £240m on its contribution to the EEC budget next year and receive relief from expenditure on coal mining, agriculture and road improvements. Plans to save £650m by cutting assistance to milk, sugar, beef and cereal producers were also disclosed. Page 6

DPP gets report on  
Mr Kelly's death

A report on the death of Mr. James Kelly while in police custody has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Chief Constable of Merseyside said. Sir Harold Wilson has taken up the case and called for a public inquiry. Page 4

**Romania defiant**  
The Romanian Communist Party congress has reaffirmed the continuation of President Ceausescu's rapid industrialization programme regardless of the energy crisis. The party is also set to pursue its independent foreign policy if need be in open defiance of the rest of the Warsaw Pact alliance. Page 7

## Murdoch defeat

Mr. Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of British American and Australian publications, has abandoned his attempt to gain control of the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd, the Melbourne-based company which is the largest newspaper organization in the southern hemisphere. Many large shareholders had objected to the proposed takeover. Page 7

Mr Lee fears for  
Kampuchean race

Fears for the future of Kampuchean as a race are expressed by Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore. He wants Western Europe, Japan and the United States to impose sanctions against Vietnam until its troops leave Kampuchea. Page 7

## Mayor's plea refused

The Supreme Court of Israel declined to hear an appeal by the mayor of Nahliel against a government decision banning him to Lebanon. It refused to order his release, saying he must first appeal to a military advisory committee. Page 7

Miners' pay: "Barometer" coalfield  
leaders vote unanimously for industrial  
action

"Quango" axed: Government to scrap  
Personal Social Services Council

Mr Jenkins  
wants  
'radical  
centre'

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

Making what he admitted was an unashamed plea for the strengthening of the "radical centre" in British politics, Mr. Roy Jenkins, the former deputy leader of the Labour Party, last night came out for proportional representation in elections.

Giving the eighth Richard Dimbleby lecture on BBC 1 in prime time, Mr. Jenkins argued that the excessive partisanship of the present system fostered the industrial mood that was "rapidly turning Britain into a manufacturing desert".

He would not finally say that change in political alignments would be bound to improve British national performance, but he thought it would help, and it would certainly improve our politics.

Mr. Jenkins argued that the aspirations of the British people would be best served by a repositioning of the centre to pull more towards the extremes.

Mr. Jenkins argued that the stock market fell slightly on news of the Treasury's gloomy figures. The Financial Times' ordinary index closed 0.2 points down on the day at 411.0. Sterling was little affected and finished slightly higher against the dollar at \$2.175.

The forecasts were hedged with warnings that they were extremely uncertain, and subject to exceptionally wide margins of error. It is known that the Treasury ministers had severe disagreements with officials about the degree of pessimism in the forecasts. The Treasury economists originally projected a fall of 3 to 4 per cent in output and a higher inflation rate.

The dismal picture from the forecasts was reflected in a warning from Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the "process of adjustment to economic reality cannot be free from pain".

Speaking at a conference of the Westminster Chamber of Commerce yesterday, the Chancellor stressed the overriding priority which the Government gives to reducing inflation.

The Government believes that lower inflation is the first step towards prosperity. Yesterday's forecasts indicate that the road to lower inflation could be very hard. Real personal incomes are expected to fall next year as official budgets, though the Government does not publish figures, published yesterday by the Department of Health and Social Security assume that pay will rise on average by 14 per cent in 1979-80 and 1980-81.

Surprisingly the Government forecasts a rise of 0.5 per cent in consumer spending next year. This will come as people save less and spend more of their incomes, according to the official figures.

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The decision, widely expected, was taken at an emergency meeting yesterday by the Minister of State for Social Security, said that higher contributions were needed because of the benefit increases this month and present assumptions about unemployment levels.

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The interest rate paid on investments is to be increased at the beginning of next month from 8.75 per cent, tax paid, to 10.25 per cent, which is equivalent to a gross yield of 15 per cent for basic rate taxpayers.

Interest rate from 11.75 per cent to 15 per cent by passes the 12.5 per cent that the societies had been expecting to charge borrowers from January. In July at the request of the Government the association agreed to postpone a rise in the mortgage interest rate to 1979 although the planned increase in the investment rate went ahead, a gesture which cost the movement around 200.

The impact on domestic budgets of the rise in the mortgage rate will be severe. The average £12,000 home will now cost £154.90 (£109.80 net) instead of £125.40 (£90.15). Although the societies will be advising those who can to pay the extra, they recognize that many will face hardship.

Speech in detail, page 5  
Leading article, page 13

Much of Mr. Jenkins's speech will be of fascination to Labour moderates, and even more to Mr. David Steel, the Liberal leader. Without waiting for proportional representation, Mr. Steel would like disaffected Labour moderates to seek some kind of alliance. A grouping with Mr. Jenkins could have appeal, but after last night Mr. Jenkins could hardly hope to be adopted as a Labour candidate for a by-election.

Last night Mr. Steel said: "I was also anxious over the only available 'relieving force' for the Labour Party which he saw as the trade unions. If that happened he doubted whether the British people would want with a trade union-dominated and nominated government on top of the power of the unions." He doubted it would be elected.

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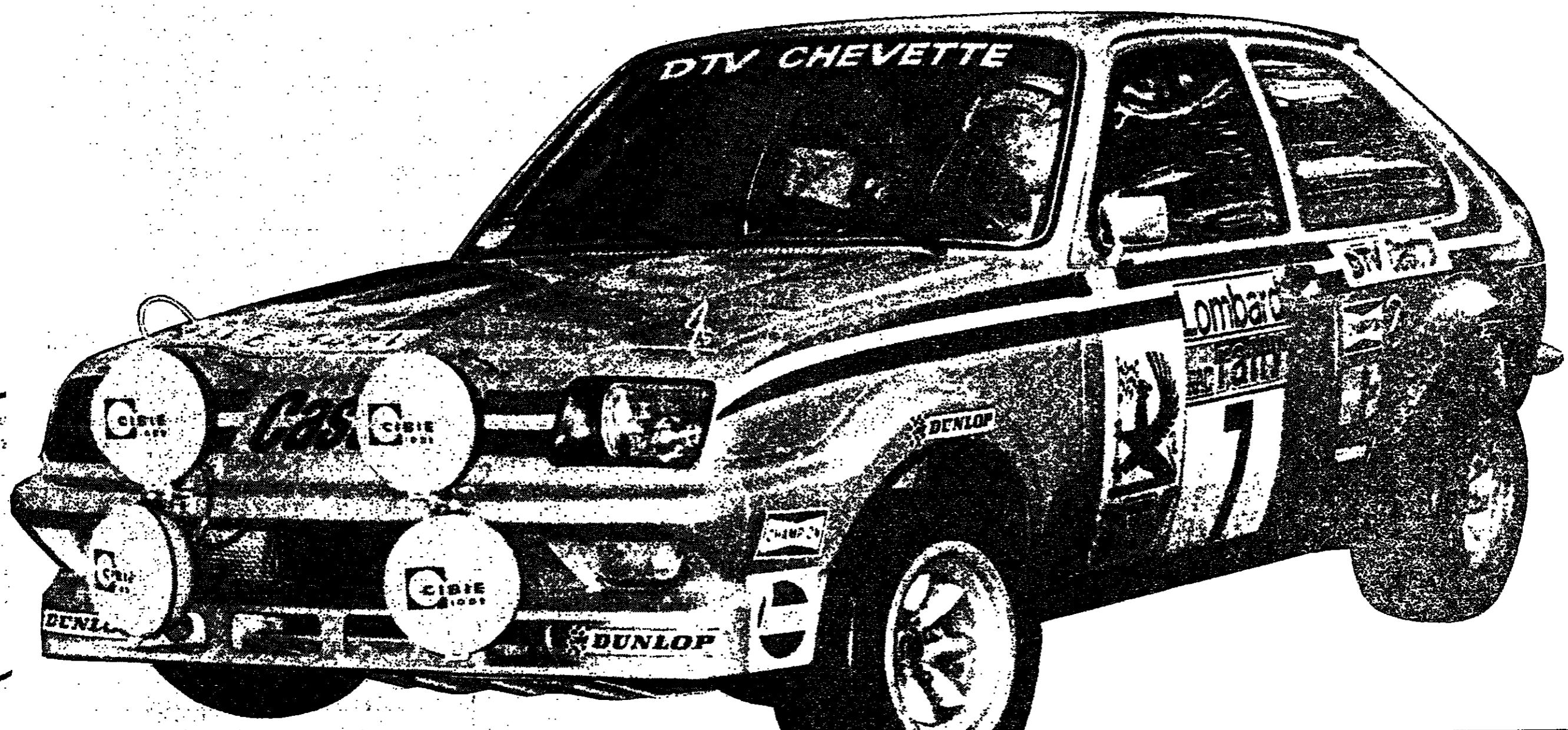
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# The new champion.



## Pentti Airikkala—Vauxhall Chevette

Pentti Airikkala, driving a Dealer Team Vauxhall Chevette, became the new British Open Rally Champion\* at the end of the crippling Lombard RAC Rally on Wednesday night.

It's a fitting climax to a great season for DTV and the Chevettes.

Pentti himself with fellow Finn Risto Virtanen won three international rallies outright: the Circuit of Ireland, the Scottish, and the Ulster. On that last rally, DTV's other driver Jimmy McRae followed Pentti home in a triumphant Chevette one-two.

Jimmy too has had his share of success. He came a close second in the Castrol/

Autosport British Rally Championship driving the S.M.T. single-cam Chevette.

Meanwhile the Evans brothers in their Vincent Greenhous Chevette were runners-up in the Esso/BTRDA Championship.

And abroad, Jan van der Marel in another Chevette won the Dutch Rally Championship for the second year running.

All of which says a great deal for the drivers and mechanics.

And even more for the robust and reliable Chevette. Congratulations to all concerned. It's clearly a winners' car.

**VAUXHALL** 

## Report going to DPP on man who died in custody of police

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

A comprehensive report on the death of Mr James Kelly while in police custody has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Mr Kenneth Oxford, the Chief Constable of Merseyside, said in a statement issued yesterday.

Mr Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, told members in the Merseyside Police last night: "You all know that a campaign of abuse has been going on in this area for a long time."

"Recently it has been taken up by television and radio, by the national press, by some MPs and by the usual rag-bag of people who spend most of their time in sniping at the police service. I am sorry to say that some members of the Merseyside police have also climbed on the bandwagon."

One of the MPs concerned about the allegations is Sir Harold Wilson, who represents Huyton. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, told him in a letter on November 20 that he was aware of the public dispute over the demands for a public inquiry.

An investigation into the death of Mr Kelly, aged 55, a labourer, was carried out by Mr David Gerry, an assistant chief constable of the West Midlands Police. Sir Thomas Hertherington, the DPP, is to give his independent consideration to the possible need for criminal proceedings.

In accordance with the Police Act, 1976, a report will be sent to the independent Police Complaints Board for its consideration and possible need for disciplinary proceedings.

Sir Harold said on Wednesday: "I still believe that an impartial and independent inquiry is necessary, but clearly this would be ruled out, perhaps for a long time, if there was any reference to the courts."

"I trust therefore that every effort will be made to decide this issue and that if there is no prosecution, the independent inquiry I have proposed will be set up, whether as a tribunal or in some other way, which will enable them to give an independent and confident answer to the public as to its thoroughness."

The call for a public inquiry was endorsed by Knowsley District Council. A motion to that effect and, also expressing alarm

## Advice body on personal services to be scrapped

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

The Government is to scrap the Personal Social Services Council, one of the last two policy advisory bodies to ministers, as part of its axe on "quangos".

The decision, expected to be announced before the end of this parliamentary session, is seen as a political move to silence a watchdog which has been critical of local and central government policy on social services.

Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services, has announced his intention in letters to the two main local authority associations, which meet half the cost of the PSSC.

The Association of County Councils and the Association of Municipal Authorities have been asked to respond by December so that Mr Jenkins can announce his decision after "consulting" them.

He proposes to retain some of the functions of the PSSC in other ways, notably by transferring research to the National Institute of Social Work. He will continue the statutory children's committee set up by his predecessor, initially for three years.

The committee is administered jointly by the PSSC and the other surviving advisory body, the Central Health Services Council, which is also believed to be in danger.

Scraping the PSSC will save little money. The budget for next year has been set at £14,000, shared equally between the Department of Health and Social Security and the local authority associations.

Some of the budget will still have to be spent, since the PSSC fulfils a statutory role in providing advice on children to the Secretary of State. The council was established in 1973 and replaced three advisory bodies covering children, old people and the handicapped.

The last Labour government scrapped policy advisory bodies

on education and housing.

The future of the PSSC is

expected to be discussed at a routine meeting next week at the department. Neither local authority association is expected to object to the proposal to scrap it. They have been irritated by its critical reports, notably on the quality of care in residential homes for children, old people and the handicapped.

Mr Jardine added: "We do not complain about being accused of being complacent and arrogant. I know that I speak for everyone in this hall when I say that we do not seek to protect the corrupt policeman or the violent policeman. What we object to is the constant attacks on a system of accountability that is greater than that which exists in any other public service in this country."

## Bigger lorry call by industry

By Michael Baily  
Transport Correspondent

The Government is coming under renewed pressure from industry to raise lorry weights from 32 to 40 tonnes without waiting for a decision by the EEC.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Transport Minister, is maintaining a non-committal approach to the issue pending the report of Sir Arthur Armitage into lorries and the environment, expected about the middle of next year.

In its evidence to the Armitage committee, published today, industry's leading voice on transport, the Freight Transport Association, says that because of conflicting political and commercial interests in the member states, an EEC decision on lorry weights cannot be expected for some time.

Meanwhile Britain will continue to suffer a considerable commercial disadvantage through having the smallest lorry-carrying in Europe, 32 tonnes, compared with France and Germany 38, Belgium and Luxembourg 40, Denmark and Italy 44, the Netherlands 50, and Sweden 54.

As an interim step towards the 44-tonne, six-axle draft proposal which was recently advanced by the Brussels Commission, the FTA proposes a 40-tonne, five-axle maximum. That, it argues, would give 10 per cent cost savings and 8 per cent fuel savings over the present 32-tonner with our increasing either the maximum size of lorries on British roads or environmental damage.

It concedes that in some circumstances a 40-tonner may cause more road damage than a 32-tonner. That is more than cancelled out by the reduction in the total number of lorries needed.

A combination of the two factors means less, not more, road damage, FTA says, quoting studies by the Government's Transport and Road Research Laboratory.

Because damage to roads, bridges and buildings, is a function of axle-load rather than overall weight, the lorry they propose would be less damaging, with proper weight distribution and taking into account the fewer lorries needed, the FTA says.

British mothers get £52 annual grants of more than £200 in France, Belgium and Luxembourg. The study shows that the grant is worth less in real terms than the £150 paid to mothers when the grant was introduced in 1911.

A minimum of £55 should be

## Maternity grant now 'less than in 1911'

Of the countries in Europe, only Ireland has a lower maternity grant than Britain and even some Third World countries such as the Ivory Coast pay more. A report from the National Maternity Grant Campaign, published yesterday, says:

British mothers get £52 annual grants of more than £200 in France, Belgium and Luxembourg. The study shows that the grant is worth less in real terms than the £150 paid to mothers when the grant was introduced in 1911.

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## Solicitor who defrauded jailed for year

From Our Correspondent

A solicitor who was said to have used his skill to defraud creditors of ailing companies was jailed at York Crown Court yesterday for 12 months.

Simeon John Saffman, aged 23, a partner in a Leeds practice, was found guilty by a jury by a majority verdict.

Mr Saffman, of Thorner Lane, Scarcroft, Leeds, and Leslie Dixon, aged 28, of North Bar Without, Beverley, and Adrian Knight, aged 31, of Albert Avenue, Hull, all denied conspiring to defraud. Mr Dixon was jailed for a year and Mr Knight was given a six-month suspended sentence and fined £1,000.

## Mentally disordered 'live in appalling conditions'

Mentally disordered people often live in appalling conditions, "herded together in the Zambesi when Roof visited it last month, despite 37 inspections by Birmingham City Council this year alone.

The council had failed to bring its statutory powers to standardise its plans of voluntary agencies to provide hostels and had pursued a "contradictory attitude of laissez faire towards lodgings house slums".

The question of hostel provision is due to be raised in the Health and Safety Executive in the first half of this year, dropped to 164,130, against 170,579 in the same period of 1978. But fatal accidents increased slightly from 307 to 316. Most of this increase happened in agriculture, where the number of deaths doubled to 34.

There were also increases in fatal accidents in the manufacturing and service industries.

## Flat fire kills two children

Gemma Allan, aged six months, who was in her pram, and Graham Moir, aged three, died yesterday in a bedroom fire in a second-floor tenement flat in Powis Crescent, Aberdeenshire. The girl's four-year-old brother was taken to hospital with minor burns and shock.

## Polytechnic cancels its graduation ceremony

By David Nicholson-Lord

Graduation ceremonies at the City of London Polytechnic were cancelled yesterday because of fears of disruption by protesters at the increase in fees to overseas students.

News of the cancellation was sent by letter to the 500 students who were to have been awarded their degrees and diplomas at the ceremonies at Guildhall on November 30 and December 14. The reason given was the possibility of disruption occupying parts of the polytechnic for the last three weeks.

The cancellation was condemned by the students' union. Miss Anne Davies, its president, said the action had been taken without consultation. The occupation had been peaceful and

there had been no threat to disrupt the proceedings.

"A lot of people will be very disappointed," she added. "It was not known whether a new date was to be fixed for the ceremonies.

Lord Boyle's warning: Overseas students could be priced out of British universities and end up studying "red letters" in the Soviet Union. Lord Boyle, of Handsworth University, said yesterday (the Press Association reports).

"We felt it was wrong to place at risk premises like Guildhall which do not belong to us, and the many people who would be there."

The students' action is part of a national campaign by the National Union of Students against fee increases to over-

seas students. Some 150 students at the polytechnic are occupying a registry. Mr Burrell said it was not known whether the United Kingdom because they were educated in this country.

If future generations of students find themselves priced out of our universities they will go elsewhere. They may go to North America or other European countries or to the Soviet Union."

The fees charged in Britain in overseas students would be far in excess of those charged in other countries, he said.

"I simply cannot see how Britain universities can hope to go by competing on the price of fees and, educational, to this country."

He said that all over the world there were men and

## £20m extra subsidy to help the hill farmers

By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

Hill farming subsidies are to rise by up to half at an extra cost next year of £20m, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday. As the owner of a steep farm in Salop, Mr Walker will be one of 53,000 farmers who will benefit.

"The increases represent a substantial expression of our belief that hill and upland farmers should enjoy a reasonable standard of living," he said. The new rates will apply to almost nine million animals and will cost a total of £75m next year, of which three-quarters will be paid by the Government and a quarter by the EEC.

The maximum payment for a sheep will rise from £3.60 to £5.50 and the rate for cows will go from £29 to £35. Mr Walker said that hill farmers had suffered badly in the hard winter early this year and that autumn prices for stock for fattening had been low.

He predicted a substantial rise in this important sector of farming. His statement was welcomed by the National Farmers' Union, but will encourage French farmers to intensify their resistance to imports of lamb from Britain. One of their main complaints is that British sheep farmers receive large Government subsidies.

The size of the increases shows that the Government has decided to exempt farming from its programme of spending cuts. Ministers are introducing a long list of projects in farming and fisheries for aid from the EEC under a Community rule of 1967.

Two projects have been approved in Scotland and ministers have asked for aid towards building factories in England and Wales to extract juice from surplus apples. Eight projects are being put forward.

Appeal for aid: Government money was needed to protect wildlife habitats from the impact of modern farming methods. Professor Norman Moore, chief advisory officer of the Nature Conservancy Council, said yesterday.

The Government spent £540m a year on agricultural improvement and £7m on conservation. He told a conference at Sandhills, Wiltshire:

"An imbalance of this proportion cannot fail to destroy our wildlife heritage", he added. "A fall in net farm incomes thi-

## Big rise in unemployment among youth may mean a demand for £22m aid

By Mark Jackson  
of The Times Educational Supplement

New official forecasts of youth unemployment next year will be made by the Government with the need for its first U-turn on public spending since the White Paper on the subject.

The forecasts, which are published in full in *The Times Educational Supplement* today, have been prepared by Manpower Services Commission economists from the total unemployment projections of the London Business School.

They show school-leaver unemployment doubling next year and a total of more than 400,000 young people under 19 out of work in January.

The commission's figures are "policy off"; that is, they include those temporarily in government programmes for workless, unlike the published Department of Employment statistics, which show only those who are on the unemployment register at the time.

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There is no prospect of finding the money within the trimmed budget without damaging its quality, the commission says, and it suggests that the £22m will have to come from the Government's contingency fund.

The forecasters say that the true figure for leavers unemployment was 92,000 in last January and will rise to 172,000 in January 1981, and to 244,000 in the next 12 months.

Unemployment among people under 19 is a whole new issue, they say, from January 1981, when 254,000 to 418,000 in 1981, above the record winter total of 1977, and reach 478,000 at the start of 1982.

By 1982, they add, there will

be nearly three times as many young people in the 16 to 18 age group who will have been out of work for more than three months.

The forecasts will be put before the Manpower Services Commission at its annual meeting in Sheffield next week, together with a proposal to increase the Youth Opportunities Programme, which provides courses and work experience projects for the jobless under 19s.

The commissioners will be advised by their officials in a report intended for submission to ministers, that the programme needs to provide another one-fifth to the young unemployed which have been endorsed by the Government are to be in.

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The forecasts say that the projections of youth unemployment cannot pretend to be a precise forecast, and that their proposals are based not on the figures, but on "very cautious" estimates, which reflects the Government's own assumptions about unemployment generally and makes no allowance for the fact that youth unemployment generally rises faster.

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Mr Taylor told yesterday's meeting that local government should produce cost-effective services that were right for the area, and that the proposals were for the new amalgamated school to take only 90 pupils and just two A level passes.

Mr L. J. Norcross, Headmaster of Highbury Grove, said: "We are afraid that the merger will change the character of our school."

"Our intake at present is 240 pupils a year, and that of Sir Philip Magnus School 90 pupils a year. Yet the proposals are for the new amalgamated school to take only 90 pupils and just two A level passes.

The proposals are for the merger of Highbury Grove, a single-sex boys' school, with Sir Philip Magnus School, and of Highbury Hill school, in Islington, north London, marching through central London yesterday to present a petition to Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, asking him to reject proposals by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) for the closure of the two schools.

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The proposals are for the merger of Highbury

## HOME NEWS

## Mr Roy Jenkins sees a British political system 'stranded by the receding tide'



Mr Jenkins: "Europe was built without us".

Turning his attention from European affairs to deliver the eighth Richard Dimbleby lecture on BBC 1 last night, Mr Jenkins, President of the European Economic Community, drew on his 28 years in the House of Commons—nine as a Cabinet minister—to look at the state of British politics and to suggest remedies for what he described as the onset of the "constricting rigidity—almost the tyranny—of the present party system".

Under the title "Home thoughts from abroad", he conceded that his move to Brussels had not diminished his interest in the British political scene, though he was saddened by the recent decline of the House of Commons as a forum of national debate.

Looking back over 100 years, Mr Jenkins said that from being the richest and most powerful country in the world, Britain was now "without a single table of national wealth to her head".

The empire had gone with a speed of soft snow under warm, damp westerly wind.

Yet all this change had happened within the skin of a political system which had in its essentials remained the same. Almost every other major country had changed its basic system, some of them several times. Traditionally this British stability was considered a major national asset. Now the question as whether the stability had turned into political rigidity, whether the old skin was now drawing tight on the new, was raised.

After 1945, which marked the end of a confused period of mid-nineteenth century politics and the election of the first Labour government, a new intern began to emerge. The general election became the key factor, and governments assumed a much sharper party line, although the system took any decades to evolve into rigidity.

The major factor of change is the rise of the Labour party, which had a strong "and" of "democratic centralism" in its theory, believed in the importance of a party conference, in the use of the mandate, and of a government being elected to carry out a detailed and specific programme which it had announced in advance. Between the wars, politics were unbalanced. The Labour party had achieved a remarkable feat in breaking through the defences of the system to place the Liberal Party. But had done so at the price of a decade of Conservative minuscule. After 1945 the balance was restored. In the twenty-one years from 18 to 1969 there were only three years when the Conservatives were not in office. In 34 years since 1945 each party had seventeen years of government. The post-war period should therefore have seen the apothecary of the two-party system. Superficially it had worked with something like perfect fairness. But it?

"It began well," said Mr Jenkins. "The Attlee Government is now widely regarded as great administration. It was

first major reforming government since that of 1905, which changed the map of the world and it changed the social map of Britain. Very few of its major measures have been reversed. It did not do so without invoking division in the party."

Then came two of the most remarkable general elections ever seen. In 1950 the Labour government just hung on; in 1951 the Conservatives just stayed home. What was remarkable was the high degree of participation in both the demand of the two major parties over their great masses of supporters, and the formality of the pattern of constituents, from region to region.

Members who did not wear the colours of the great party they were nearly obliterated. After the dissolution in 1950 there were 37 independents or members of third parties. After 1951 there were nine. The first "first past the post" system had always been based on an unamended by the two big parties, but before 1950 it had been mitigated in a number of ways. Now the Conservatives were supreme, but did not much matter at the time because it was so obviously in accord with the electoral mood of the country. In 1951 most strict system of proportional representation would have given the Liberals only seven seats against the six which they secured.

At the time of the 1955 election, when the Conservatives increased their tiny majority, Britain seemed to be dealing reasonably successfully with the post-war id, was still third in the hierarchy of world power, still substantially richer than either France or Germany. Then came two major events. The first, short and sharp, was the second was the formation of the European Economic Community without British participation. The first was Britain's last imperial adventure, and shatteringly unsuccessful. It was the end of tensions to be an independent world power. Therefore, as long as the American empire lasted, Britain stayed close to Washington. The effect on the French, who had been involved in the débâcle, was quite different.

We turned across the Atlantic. They turned across the Rhine, and Europe was without us. There is room for argument about the causes what followed. There is no doubt that the obvious was in Britain

defeated by three considerations. First it could be said that it was only a little majority, because as in 1950 and 1951, the overwhelming majority seemed happy voting for and working with the other of the big parties.

As the numbers voting for those parties, and perhaps even more dramatically, those enthusiastically working for them had fallen, so that argument had collapsed.

Secondly, there had been a "shop" what we have in mind" approach by the established parties. Why let anyone we did not have to get his nose into the trough of political power? That had never been very creditable but it was said that it had now done not only the Conservative and Labour parties but also the Liberal Party in its long period of power. And it was made more respectable by the third argument: that it worked; that it produced strong, effective, coherent government; that it avoided the weakness of incompatible coalitions between parties, and made our system the envy of the world; and that that was more important than abstract equity.

"But where stands that argument today?" Mr Jenkins asked. "Effective, coherent government? Do we really believe that we have been more effectively and more consistently governed over the past two decades than have the Germans, with their very sensible system of proportional representation?"

"The avoidance of incompatible coalitions? Do we really believe that the last Labour Government was not a coalition, in fact if not in name, and a pretty incompatible one at that? I served in it for half its life, and you could not convince me of anything else."

Coalitions got a bad name in England partly because of a superficial apportionment by Disraeli, and partly because the word became associated with the worst phase of Lloyd George's career and with the "hardened men" who then supported him. But some form of coalition was essential for democratic leadership.

Sometimes the coalitions were overt, sometimes covert. There had also been a weakening of the position of the House of Commons", Mr Jenkins said. "It has recently declined as a forum of national debate, or even as a gladiatorial arena in which political reputations are made or destroyed, on top of its long-lost Government-making capacity.

We are therefore confronted with a somewhat depressing balance sheet: a political system which previously served us well, but which has recently become selected by the receding tide of public commitment; a House of Commons which should be its chief ornament, but which commands diminishing respect; and an inadequate national performance which may be due to entirely different reasons but which certainly gives no basis for complacency about the framework in which it has declined."

What could and should be done? How over the next decade could we improve the functioning of British politics, make them more representative of and more responsive to the aspirations of the public, and in the process perhaps help to secure that desperately needed recovery of the British economy and of British national self-confidence?

On the content of politics we had to try to lengthen our perspective, and escape from the tyranny of the belief, against all the evidence, that one government can make or break us.

A governing party, with the self-confidence to want power and to believe that its exercise of it could tilt the country in the right direction, should also have the humility to recognise, on any likely projection of the past, that its power would come to an end, probably in about six years, perhaps less, only exceptionally.

"We may or may not have too much legislation, but we certainly have too much short-lived legislation measures put on the statute book by one party or the other in the almost certain knowledge that they will be reversed by the other."

One major disadvantage of excessive political partisanship was that it fostered precisely the sort of industrial mood which was rapidly turning Britain into a manufacturing desert. If, on the House of Commons floor, it was always the fault of the other side, how could politicians preach convincingly against the prevalence of such a mood on the shop floor?

"This, some people will say with horror, is an unashamed plea for the strengthening of the political centre. Why not? The vocation of politicians ought to be to represent, to channel the aspirations of the electorate," Mr Jenkins said.

On institutional questions, he believed the case for proportional representation was now overwhelming. It was clearly a fairer system, accepted as such by most democratic countries.

The onus of proof must be upon those who wished to defend the existing system under which only a handful of parliamentary seats was given to 20 per cent or even 25 per cent of the electorate. As there was a greater alienation from the two big parties it had become more indefensible. And as it became more indefensible, the alienation fed upon

itself, the obvious was in Britain

closer to those of 20,000 or 30,000 than to those of the "people's court" of the 20 or 30.

"Let there be the full right for an MP to be challenged. But let it be done before those who ought to be responsible—the mass of his electorate. Either give the MP reasonable security to get on with his job, or if a major dispute arises with his local party, let a properly organized and officially conducted primary election be held."

Equally the disputes about who should elect the party leader and who should prepare the party manifesto raised wider questions that could be solved by a simple defensive election.

There was a lot to be said for a potential leader's parliamentary colleagues having a dominant say in the choice. But he was also intended to be the leader of the whole party, and there was nothing inherently shocking in the view that some wider electoral college should be found.

What was peculiar was the assumption that in the present Labour Party another form of election would be likely to produce a result unacceptable to the majority of Labour

MPs.

On the manifesto, it was not a question of whether the better polemical stylists were in Transport House or in the Parliamentary Labour Party. It was that the National Executive Committee would wish to write a totally different sort of manifesto, one on which the majority of those now elected by the people would not wish to fight, and on which they did not believe they could govern even if elected. Nothing could be done to change that.

Conditions got a bad name in England partly because of a superficial apportionment by Disraeli, and partly because the word became associated with the worst phase of Lloyd George's career and with the "hardened men" who then supported him. But some form of coalition was essential for democratic leadership.

Sometimes the coalitions were overt, sometimes covert. He did not think the distinction greatly mattered. The test was whether those within the coalition were closer to each other, and to the mood of the nation, they sought to govern, than they were to those outside their ranks.

He was not frightened by the argument against proportional representation that it would probably mean frequent coalition and saw as the great disadvantage of the present electoral system the freezing of the pattern of politics, which held together the incompatible because everyone assumed that if a party split, it would be electorally disengaged. If the "rump" saw a new grouping with cohesion and relevant policies, it might be more attracted by their new reality than by old labels which had become increasingly irrelevant.

Examining two common arguments against proportional representation, Mr Jenkins said it was not true that it must produce a great multiplicity of tiny splinter parties and cited the German system under which it was necessary to have 5 per cent of the national vote to qualify for a national seat as an effective barrier against them.

It was suggested that it might encourage extremist parties, a big Communist Party or even a far-right party.

Italy had proportional representation and a big Communist Party but one was not the cause of the other. France had a big Communist Party, but not proportional representation. Germany, with proportional representation, had a negligible Communist Party. Much the same applied in Holland, Belgium, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden.

In Britain proportional representation would be likely to allow a much broader range of seats to a party of the far left, although not to the Communist Party of such. But that overt result would be far more reasonable than allowing much the same people to have a sizeable say in the choice of candidates and the manifesto on which they fight up to 300 seats.

Turning to what other changes of political method were needed, Mr Jenkins said a great argument had been joined about democracy within the Labour Party. It was an important subject with political and constitutional implications extending well beyond the domestic affairs of one party. But to some considerable extent the basis for it appeared to be misconceived. The questions were wrongly posed.

It was desirable neither to stand rigidly upon the status quo nor to hand over still greater power to an unrepresentative party machine whose pretensions on policy become greater as its effectiveness in maintaining a powerful organization in the country—the real job of a party machine—became less.

This, some people will say with horror, is an unashamed plea for the strengthening of the political centre. Why not? The vocation of politicians ought to be to represent, to channel the aspirations of the electorate," Mr Jenkins said.

On institutional questions, he believed the case for proportional representation was now overwhelming. It was clearly a fairer system, accepted as such by most democratic countries.

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## High sheriffs in search of a new role in life

By Robin Young

The contingency planning of England's under-employed high sheriffs has been highlighted by Captain Jeremy Elwes, chairman of the Shirevaly Association. Captain Elwes, speaking at the association's annual luncheon, said high sheriffs should be found something to do.

In medieval times they were the sovereign's principal representatives in the shires. As raising regiments became of more importance than the organization of law and order, they lost their place to lords lieutenant.

Eventually they were reduced to the residual business of providing the hospitality when judges came to assess, and of announcing election results, if they wished, in their county constituency.

Captain Elwes says the sheriffs have the most historic office in the land, but their legal functions are reduced to such seldom practised duties as supervising executions for treason. He suggests that the under-employed dignitaries should busy themselves improving morale in the health, prison and police services by undertaking official visits.

With the Criminal Justice Act 1967, they lost their role in enforcing fines imposed by assessors and quarter sessions, and the 1971 Courts Act abolished the assessors and quarter sessions themselves.

Some High Sheriffs now are stranded in counties that never saw a judge since they lack a crown court.

Yet the office perpetuates itself with remarkable success.

Each outgoing sheriff nominates a potential successor to take his place at the bottom of a waiting list, and on the eve of Martindale (November 12), Councillors, new sheriffs for the counties are nominated.

Even more tenacious are the under-sheriffs, who make up the sheriff's staff. They are solicitors to private practice, paid a poundage rate on fines they collect in the sheriff's name.

Nominally they are appointed each year by the new sheriff.

In practice, one firm of solicitors have been under-sheriffs for London, for example, since 1760.

The under-sheriffs and sheriff's agents still bring in large sums of money, but the high sheriffs, themselves, having lost responsibility even for jury nomination, are left with little to do. It is only the lucky ones, in traditionally minded counties where crown courts sit, who even have a few opportunities to wear court dress or other ceremonial.

## Whitehall brief: Can the Government deal with strikes?

## Part VIII—A world riddled with Hobson's choices

## New civil defence corps suggested

By Peter Hennessy

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The under-sheriffs and sheriff's agents still bring in large sums of money, but the high sheriffs, themselves, having lost responsibility even for jury nomination, are left with little to do. It is only the lucky ones, in traditionally minded counties where crown courts sit, who even have a few opportunities to wear court dress or other ceremonial.

This was not to argue against some dispute and tension within parties being inevitable and indeed desirable. Such reasonable and creative tension was, however, a far cry from a position in which internecine warfare was the constant and major purpose of a party's life.

The response to such a situation, in his view, should not be to slug through an unending war of attrition, stubbornly and "conventionally" defending as much of the old citadel as could be held, but to break our and mount a battle and movement on new and higher ground.

Within the traditional political confines, there was only one source from which such a relieving force could come: the power and money of the trade union leadership, increasingly irritated by the intransigence of the left. That would not be a healthy form of relief. It would obviously and inevitably increase the political power of the unions by making the Labour Party more and not less of a trade union party. Be did not think that would be good either for British politics or for the unions themselves.

They already had great industrial power, and significant political power as well. That was as much as they could have asked, and the region could not have asked more.

The unions had an essential and difficult job to do, and the idea that the British people wanted a trade union-dominated Government on top of the power the unions today exercised was far from the truth.

The paradox was that we needed more change accompanied by more stability of direction. Too often we had superficial and quickly reversed political change without much purpose or underlying effect. We needed the innovative stimulus of the free market economy without, at the same time, the unacceptable brutality of its uncontrolled distribution of rewards or its indifference to unemployment. That was by no means an impossible combination.

It meant acceptance of the broad line of division between the public and the private sectors and not a constant threat to those in the private sector with nationalization or expropriation.

Mr Jenkins added: "You also make sure that the state knows its place, not only in relation to the economy, but in relation to the citizen. You are in favour of the right of dissent and the liberty of private conduct. You are against unnecessary centralization and bureaucracy. You want to devolve decision-making wherever you sensibly can."

You want parents in the school system, patients in the health service, residents in the neighbourhood, customers in both nationalized and private industry, to have as much say as possible.

You want the nation, without eschewing necessary controversy, to achieve a renewed sense of cohesion and common purpose.

These are some of the objectives which I believe could be assisted by a strengthening of the radical centre."

"You want the nation, without

about which the public ought to be cut off by act of God or strike-breaking. It is a matter of sensible precautions, which

## WEST EUROPE

**Commission proposal to refund Britain £340m on EEC budget**From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Nov 22

Britain would get a refund of about £340m on its contributions to the EEC budget next year, and receive a further unquantified amount of relief from increased Community spending in Britain on the coal industry, agriculture, and road improvement, under proposals announced here today by the European Commission.

Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the Commission, will put the proposals to Mrs Thatcher and other EEC heads of Government at their summit in Dublin in November 29 and 30. The Prime Minister has said that Britain's estimated 1980 budget deficit of £1.200m must be brought into broad balance.

In a separate move, Mr Finnian Gundelach, the Commissioner for Agriculture, disclosed plans for cutting financial aid to milk, sugar, beef, and cereal producers. He claimed that these proposals would reduce projected EEC spending on the farm sector by about £650m over a year.

Mr Gundelach's proposals will not be discussed in detail at Dublin, but their announcement, due in December, was brought forward to show Mrs Thatcher and her EEC colleagues before the summit that the Commission is serious about tackling agricultural surpluses.

The initial British reaction to the Gundelach plan was distinctly hostile, although the Government, like its Labour predecessor, has complained bitterly about the heavy charge of agriculture on the EEC budget.

After a meeting with executives of the British Sugar Corporation, Mr Peter Walker, the Minister for Agriculture, said that the sugar proposals, aimed at reducing the Community's sugar surplus by one million tonnes, would put an "unfair and illogical burden" on British producers. He called on the Commission to reconsider "these unacceptable ideas".

British officials were equally harsh about the Commission's proposals for increased taxation of milk producers. Milk and sugar production in Britain, they argued, met only part of domestic demand and were not responsible for the surpluses. Yet because British producers were more efficient, they would be disproportionately hit.

Under the Commission plan, the tax on milk producers of 0.5 per cent would go up to 1.5 per cent on April 1, and dairies would have to pay a further tax estimated at 3 per cent.

The Commission aims to cut the sugar surplus from three million to two million tonnes.

Parliamentary report, page 3

**Britain on collision course with EEC**By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the Government on a collision course yesterday with the European Community, when he made clear in a debate in the Commons that the solutions to Britain's huge imbalance in contributions to the EEC budget must be radical, permanent and immediate.

Seldon has a government left itself so little room for retreat or manoeuvre and rarely, on EEC matters, has the Commons been so united. Opposition and Government, MPs for and MPs against the Community, rallied round the Chancellor as he told them that the problem must be solved at next week's Dublin summit once and for all.

It was enough for the Community to offer temporary measures which would afford relief for a year or two and which at the end of that time would leave Britain in an intolerable situation as ever.

From the Labour benches Sir Geoffrey had the full support of Mr Peter Shore, Opposition foreign affairs spokesman and a long time opponent of the EEC. Gleefully he recited his warnings of seven years ago, when he told the House that the present imbalance in our contributions would inevitably take place.

More significantly, Mr Shore served warning that Britain and the EEC were now on a collision course and that the willingness shown to change a manifestly unfair system of taxation would be seen by the British people as a test.

There could be no retreat at Dublin, even if the considered, deliberate and successive statements made by the Prime Minister, Mr Shore said. It was not good enough to rattle the chains and if need be they must be cut.

Indeed, the Chancellor, with the Prime Minister sitting beside him, seemed only too well aware that he was heading down a path from which the Government could return only in glory or in ignominy. If nothing was changed at Dublin, Sir Geoffrey said, Britain, seventh in order of gross national product, would be beaten and away the largest contributor to the Community budget in 1980.

The Chancellor said he was not wedded to any particular solution. One method would be an entirely new and separate mechanism. Another could be a single rule limiting Britain's net contribution in a way which would satisfy the Government's overall objective. A further method could be to raise receipts per head

and production levels on milk.

Tate & Lyle welcomed the plan to cut sugarbeet quotas. The company, which refines cane sugar, said dumping subsidies outside the Community had depressed the world price of sugar and had cost Community taxpayers £350m a year.

Parliamentary report, page 3

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Parliamentary report, page 3

**Air controllers in France resume ban**From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov 22

Air traffic controllers at centres throughout France voted today to resume disruptive action which is stopping the majority of flights taking off from the country's airports. They had called off the action, which has been going on for more than three weeks, for 24 hours to await the outcome of talks last night with M Roger Machenau, director of Air Navigation.

The controllers' representatives said after the meeting that although they had been able to talk about the whole range of their claims from better pay to higher manning levels, they had been left in no doubt that M Machenau was in no position to negotiate.

West German officials said the talks were being held in a "very good constructive spirit" and the mood was "personally very agreeable and trusting". Herr Genscher went out of his way to create a friendly climate for the talks by inviting Mr Gromyko to his home for a private supper last night.

Observers suspected that the pleasure of the summit may have been specially emphasized to counteract the effect of repeated personal attacks by the communist bloc against Herr Genscher during its campaign to sway West Germany against the Nato plan.

The authorities have taken disciplinary action against 42 controllers at Lyons airport and at Aix-en-Provence, suspending them for four periods of between one week and three months, because of their support for the union ban on allowing aircraft to take off. The unions do not meet again until Monday to decide their next step.

**Socialist in the Gaullist parlour**

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Nov 22

An unprecedented meeting between M Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris, and M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, took place today in the mayor's office.

It lasted for only a few minutes and, although described as a courtesy visit, acquires a sharp political significance in the context of current talks about "convergence" between Gaullists and Socialists.

The president of the Gaullist Rassemblement had never had any conversation with the First Secretary of the Socialist Party before.

"Convergence" is the fashionable word these days in political lobbies and Paris drawing rooms. This rather baroque expression is synonymous with a meeting of minds which, given the right circumstances, might lead to a reversal of political alliances in this country.

The mechanics of it are rather simple. French political forces are almost evenly divided between the Government majority and the opposition. But each is made up of two parties, the Giscardians and Gaullists on the one hand and Socialists and Communists on the other. They find convergence increasingly unbearable.

It is an open secret that President Giscard d'Estaing, since coming to office in 1974, has dreamed of an alternative left-right majority based on an alliance between Giscard

**Genscher supper to draw stinging from Soviet criticism**From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Nov 22

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, discussed world security problems with his West German counterpart, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, here today.

The two are understood to have exchanged views on the expected Nato decision to deploy medium-range nuclear missiles in West Europe and simultaneously to propose negotiations with the Soviet Union on arms reduction.

West German officials said the talks were being held in a "very good constructive spirit" and the mood was "personally very agreeable and trusting". Herr Genscher went out of his way to create a friendly climate for the talks by inviting Mr Gromyko to his home for a private supper last night.

Observers suspected that the pleasure of the summit may have been specially emphasized to counteract the effect of repeated personal attacks by the communist bloc against Herr Genscher during its campaign to sway West Germany against the Nato plan.

The authorities have taken disciplinary action against 42 controllers at Lyons airport and at Aix-en-Provence, suspending them for four periods of between one week and three months, because of their support for the union ban on allowing aircraft to take off. The unions do not meet again until Monday to decide their next step.

**Socialist in the Gaullist parlour**

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Nov 22

An unprecedented meeting between M Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris, and M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, took place today in the mayor's office.

It lasted for only a few minutes and, although described as a courtesy visit, acquires a sharp political significance in the context of current talks about "convergence" between Gaullists and Socialists.

The president of the Gaullist Rassemblement had never had any conversation with the First Secretary of the Socialist Party before.

"Convergence" is the fashionable word these days in political lobbies and Paris drawing rooms. This rather baroque expression is synonymous with a meeting of minds which, given the right circumstances, might lead to a reversal of political alliances in this country.

The mechanics of it are rather simple. French political forces are almost evenly divided between the Government majority and the opposition. But each is made up of two parties, the Giscardians and Gaullists on the one hand and Socialists and Communists on the other. They find convergence increasingly unbearable.

It is an open secret that President Giscard d'Estaing, since coming to office in 1974, has dreamed of an alternative left-right majority based on an alliance between Giscard

and M Mitterrand.

There are other signs that point the same way. M Bertrand Pons, the new Gaullist Secretary-General, has twice

THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23 1979

**ISLAMIC UNREST****Irish elder statesman encouraged by Iran to mediate in dispute with US**From Robert Fisk  
Tehran, Nov 22

Mr Sean MacBride, a former Secretary-General of the United Nations and one of the founders of Amnesty International, flew into Tehran today at the invitation of the Iranian Government to try and break the deadlock over the American diplomats held hostage at the United States Embassy here.

He took a message from Pope Paul VI to the Hanoi Government during the Vietnam war and spent some time in North Vietnam with Mr Ramsey Clark, whom Mr Carter sent on an abortive mission to Iran to free the American hostages earlier this month.

The initiative for Mr MacBride's intervention appears to have come from Unesco but the Iranian Foreign Ministry then issued an invitation for him to come to Tehran. Mr MacBride lunched with Mr Bani-Sadr today and was to have further talks with him tonight.

Nevertheless, it is Ayatollah Khomeini and not the Revolutionary Council which controls the Iranian domestic and foreign policy in Iran, and Mr Bani-Sadr, who is a leading member of the Council, does not appear to have much influence on behalf of the clergy.

Mr MacBride, who was Irish Minister for External Affairs

shortly after the Second World War and was once chief of staff of the IRA, has a considerable record as an intermediary. He negotiated the release of Archbishop Makarios from the Seychelles and underlined the talks which led to the release of Archbishop Beran, who was imprisoned in Czechoslovakia.

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## OVERSEAS

## Salisbury starts to free prisoners but forbids political activity until expiry of their sentences

From Nicholas Ashford, Salisbury, Nov 22. Bishop Abel Muzorewa's government began releasing political prisoners and detainees today after deciding its week to set political offenders free before the arrival of a British governor to Salisbury.

Among the first batch to be released were 32 supporters of Joshua Nkomo's Zulu organization serving sentences in Salisbury's Chikurutsi prison. They said they were released in condition they did not participate in political activities during the period that their prison sentences should have ended.

One man was barred from political activity until 1991, according to Mr Charles Msipa, an Zulu official.

An announcement that political offenders were to be released was made by Bishop Muzorewa at a press conference today. He said that by the time the releases were complete there would be hardly any political offenders in jail apart from those who had been convicted for crimes of violence.

Zimbabwe Rhodesia would be a proud record where political detainees and prisoners were concerned compared with other African countries, he said.

According to official sources 177 political prisoners will be released in terms of the amnesty announced by Bishop Muzorewa today. Since the shop came to power in June, 4 other prisoners convicted of offences under the country's security legislation have been released.

Most of those now being held were found guilty of aiding and abetting "terrorists" attempting to go abroad for military training. About 70 political detainees held without trial under the emergency regulations are also to be released over the next few days. Others are expected to be freed later. A protest is being held at White Wharf station near Gwelo. However, there is to be no amnesty for the huge numbers of people who are being held in Army camps and makeshift detention centres and the country under the strict law regulations. The Government has not said

Bishop Muzorewa: Undecided on whether to legalize Mugabe and Nkomo parties.

how many of these detainees there are but they are believed to total about 18,000. It is hoped these detainees will be freed if the British Governor repeals the martial law regulations when he takes up office in Salisbury.

While the decision to release political offenders has generally been welcomed by Zimbabwe Rhodesia blocks some believe the Government has acted primarily to win black support in the election to be held next year once the present Lancaster House peace talks in London have reached a successful conclusion. "It is just a vote-catching gimmick," Mr Msipa said.

Bishop Muzorewa said he had not decided whether to remove the ban on Zulu or Zulu, the

internal parties of Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, leaders of the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance. However, he said to answer a question he said he was determined to see the Patriotic Front participate in the forthcoming election "so that no one can say they were left out."

He rejected suggestions that the Salisbury delegation at Lancaster House had been hoping the Patriotic Front would walk out of the conference leaving Britain to go ahead with its "second-class" solution involving only the internal political parties.

He added that he was convinced the Patriotic Front would agree to ceasefire terms with Britain and the Salisbury Government.

Thousands of Kampuchean refugees head for lorries and buses waiting to take them to a new refugee camp in Thailand eight miles from the frontier. It will take up to 200,000 people.

From Peter Hazelhurst, Singapore, Nov 22.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore, today called on Western Europe, Japan and the United States to impose economic sanctions against Vietnam until Hanoi withdraws its armed forces from Kampuchea.

Hunting that the fighting along the border of Kampuchea has developed into the greatest threat to the stability of the non-communist Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) since its inception, Mr Lee also called on the United Nations to send more observers to the Thai frontier.

Setting out his views on Kampuchea in an interview with *The Times* today, Mr Lee went on in angry but measured terms to accuse Vietnam and the Soviet Union of attempting to smother the Kampuchean people.

"I fear for the Kampuchean as a race. I think they will be destroyed," he said.

He said the conflict between the Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese troops near the border of Thailand could endanger the stability of the front-line Asean state.

"The immediate danger is that Vietnam will violate Thailand's territory by shelling and bombing, and by sending troops into Thailand pursuing Kampuchean irregulars who, unarmed, are drifting into Thailand mingling between genuine refugees."

"The long-term danger is that if, after a blatant act of aggression, Vietnam can still win world-wide recognition for a puppet regime by presenting the world with what it vehemently keeps repeating as an 'irreversible' fact, then the future bodes ill for peace and stability in all of South-East Asia," Mr Lee said.

He added that ASEAN believes the crisis can only be resolved if Vietnamese troops withdraw from Kampuchea and the Kampuchean people are permitted to elect their own government under the supervision of the United Nations.

"Japan, the United States and Europe can help a return to peaceful and stable conditions in the region by not giving Vietnam the political support or economic succour she badly needs.

He said he believed that Moscow may not be much more suc-

"In Vietnam's ambitions in anxiety find a conjunction in Kampuchea and in her inevitable conflict with China. She needs trade and economic cooperation with the Western industrial nations and with her neighbours in South-East Asia to repair the ravages of war and to build a better life for her people."

"She must, however, first observe the minimum decencies of civilized conduct between peaceful nations."

Mr Lee pointed out that the presence of United Nations observers on the Thai frontier can inhibit Vietnamese violations of Thai territory. "They would bear witness to Vietnam's extension of war into Thailand."

Mr Lee claimed that the conflict in Kampuchea is essentially part of the Soviet Union's attempt to extend its influence in South-East Asia.

In a biting analysis of Moscow's policy in Asia, Mr Lee said the Soviet Union had, in the past, failed miserably in the area.

Poising out that Soviet policies failed in Indonesia and not those Cambodians who Heng Samrin and his Vietnamese backers consider worthy of survival?

"When China took it upon herself to punish Vietnam by invading her last February, she interpreted the possibility in the light of her experience when Chinese troops crossed the Himalayas into India."

"But, whatever the price, the casualties and sufferings will be borne by Vietnamese, Kampuchean and Chinese. The advantages are considerable: friendly harbours and air bases which will multiply the sea days of naval vessels and the effective reach of her reconnaisance and other craft."

India which voted with the Soviet Union against the recent United Nations resolution calling for the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea.

Putting the Asean case, Mr Lee asked: "How does it guarantee that the food gets through to the Cambodians and not those Cambodians who Heng Samrin and his Vietnamese backers consider worthy of survival?"

## Ceausescu cult reaches new heights

From essa Trevisan, Bucharest Nov 22.

The first message to emerge from the Romanian Party Congress is that Romania is as resolute as ever to guard its independence and to extend it by keeping an active foreign policy, clearly distinguishable and often in outright disagreement with the Warsaw Pact line.

The second message is that high-pressure industrialisation will be pursued regardless of the energy crisis and strains created in the international economic scene. This means rapid economic growth, high industrial investment at the expense of the consumer, tight discipline, tight police controls.

The third message is that President Ceausescu is an absolute ruler, the personalisation of the country, the nation and its party. Romania is deemed to have everything to him; the cult has risen to great heights.

There is nothing new in that, except that this point is now being driven home more forcefully; that the tributes are more lavish and elaborate; that the ovations are more frenzied, and that all this makes this congress more than ever a one-man show.

Demands for his re-election to the post of general secretary which every speaker reiterated as if there was the slightest doubt who was likely to get the job, brought the audience of almost 3,000 faithful into a frenzy that is living leader, with the possible exception of Kim Il Sung, of North Korea, can match.

The show might have been boring and most of the audience might have had difficulties in keeping awake, but the never missed their cue to cheer the man who was running.

If the portraits adorning public buildings look rather modest, and in keeping with the economy drive, may have been cut down in numbers and size, the image of Mr Ceausescu emerging from the congress looks king-size.

The cult of personality has obviously gathered new momentum from the congress. What it might lead to remains to be seen, but before embarking on the next five-year stage, it was obviously necessary to demonstrate it beyond doubt.

The ambitious targets this congress is about to launch call for a thorough reorganisation. It is being suggested that Mr Ceausescu's wife, Elena, the formidable power behind Romanian politics, might rise still higher in the party hierarchy.

The assumption is that she may prove more trustworthy than her President Ceausescu needs.

One suggestion is that the post of deputy to the general secretary might be created for her. Another is for her to be made party secretary in charge of the cadres.

Of the two, the latter seems more plausible, especially as the membership of both the permanent bureau which now has 11 members, and of the executive bureau, with 41, is to be increased. In order to turn Romania into an industrially advanced country, the party is to be reorganized from top to bottom.

Net industrial production is to rise at an annual rate of 9 per cent to 10 per cent, agricultural production by more than 4 per cent, and investment by more than 5 per cent by 1985, according to this programme. Romania is to become a medium-advanced industrial power. Any real improvement in the living standards is to come after that.

For the 22 million Romanians this means more sweat and not much else. Moreover, Romania has worked out a comprehensive 10-year energy programme designed to make it self-sufficient. This calls for enormous additional investment into energy resources, and means that the promised improvement is in fact to be postponed until then.

**Let off lightly**

Johannesburg, Nov 22.—A former boxer who forgot to appear in court on a speeding charge got off with a light fine today when the magistrate agreed that punches on the head might have damaged the man's memory. Mike "The Tank" Schutte, a heavyweight, was fined 20 rand (\$24) for contempt of court. The magistrate said the fine would usually have been bigger.

## British flag pulled down by Lusaka protesters

By Neil Kelly, Bangkok, Nov 22. More than 100 people gathered at State House today, that he expected the British High Commissioner to Lusaka today in support of President Kaunda's decision to mobilise his armed forces in view of intensified attacks on Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

Referring to the recent attacks on Zambian bridges the President asked whether the crowd could accept that the raids were made without the knowledge of the British Government. He was answered by a roar of "No".

The President also attacked Sir Leonard Alibone, the British High Commissioner to Zambia, for saying that the British Government was not responsible for the Zimbabwe Rhodesian raids into Zambia over the year.

He rejected calls from militants to nationalise Shell-BP Zambia and Lombo, saying that there was no point in nationalising such companies until Zambia had people trained to run them.

President Kaunda told about 6,000 people gathered at State House that he expected the British High Commissioner to Lusaka today in support of President Kaunda's decision to mobilise his armed forces in view of intensified attacks on Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

In Wellington, Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, said New Zealand would lift sanctions when Britain did.

Commenting on the Australian announcement made earlier, Mr Muldoon said that if agreement was reached at the London talks Britain would appoint a governor in the breakaway colony, proclaim that it had returned to legality, and end sanctions. New Zealand would follow suit.

## Australians to speed up end of sanctions

Canberra, Nov 22.—Australia and New Zealand will end trade sanctions against Zimbabwe Rhodesia without waiting for action in the United Nations, the event of a settlement at the London talks, the two countries announced today.

Mr Andrew Peacock, the Foreign Minister, said Australia would lift sanctions as soon as the peace talks reached agreement. It would also send 135 men to join a Commonwealth force monitoring the ceasefire during the planned transitional period leading up to elections.

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Mr Muldoon said later: "We're disappointed, but no responsible owner of a public company could pay these prices."

Asked whether his bid to take over one of the other groups, or be taken over, that would be against the public interest, I would like there to

be six groups. The fewer there are, the worse it is."

The article went on to say: "That is the trouble with Mr Muldoon's principles for posed takeover and saying they would not sell."

Announcement of the Murdoch withdrawal came after the Herald in Melbourne, which carried a front-page leading article on the takeover attempt and the mindless reaction that in 1977 Mr Murdoch had been quoted as saying: "I think it would be a pity if I grew any bigger in Australia. There are now basically three groups in Australia and that's too few already."

The article concluded: "You know, the man does talk lot sense. Sometimes."

Had Mr Murdoch bought half the Herald shares, it appears now that the Trade Practices Commission would have taken him to court for contravening the Trade Practices Act.

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## Court declines to release mayor of West Bank town

From Moshe Brilliant, Jerusalem, Nov 22.

The Supreme Court of Israel today declined to order the release of Mr Bassan Shaka, the mayor of Nablus, or to hear an appeal against the Government's decision to banish him to Lebanon.

A panel of three judges said the mayor must first appeal to a military advisory committee and the court could take up the case only if he lost his appeal there.

A courtroom packed with sympathisers, including mayors of other West Bank towns who signed in sympathy, heard the judges dismiss the argument by Mr Shaka's Israeli lawyer, Mrs Felicia Langer, that it was futile to appeal to the committee because it had decided to banish Mr Shaka.

At the end, it again quoted Mr Murdoch as having once said: "England has eight or nine major daily newspapers. I would like to buy another successful paper there. The Monopolies Commission would say no. That's quite correct and proper."

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## Priest says over 100 Jesuits living in China

From John Earle, Rome, Nov 22.

A recent visit to China by Father Michel Chu Li-eb, adviser of Chinese priests to the Society of Jesus, has shown that almost a hundred Chinese Jesuits are living there today.

The doctor has also dropped a poison gas which had not been able to identify. People who died unless given immediate injections of atropine or ammonia.

Jesuits have reported Vietnamese gas attacks on the past two years and claimed

some of their people had been killed. A French doctor in northern Thailand who examined Laotians affected by the gas said it resembled poison gas used in Flanders during the First World War.

Eight executions: The Vietnamese-backed administration in Phnom Penh said today it had discovered documents showing that the ousted Pol Pot regime had executed two Australian and six American yachtsmen arrested off the Kampuchean coast.

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Father Chu, who also met other Roman Catholic clergy and laymen, was able to observe the strength and vitality of their faith, their attachment to the Church and God. Father Chu, although for many years there has been no free sacramental life for Chinese Catholics,

These do not feel themselves to be represented by the Patriotic Church, the only church visible to foreign visitors."

For programs contact travel agents and ALITALIA. General information: Italian State Tourist Office (ENIT), London.

MM

Catania. Unique

PARLIAMENT, November 22, 1979

## Search for acceptable way of transferring power in N Ireland

House of Commons

The Government was determined to seek ways of transferring power to elected representatives in Northern Ireland. Mr. Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said at question time.

He said that he had not yet received any formal letters of reply to his invitation to Ulster political parties to attend his conference on the reform of local government institutions and go to the United Kingdom. But the Democratic Unionist Party, the SDLP and the Alliance Party.

Mr. Hillary Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C)—As all these parties expressed an interest in a greater measure of self-government during the election, is that a great deal to be discussed such as the role of agriculture, commerce and industry, and therefore the parties would be well advised to attend the conference for that purpose?

Mr. Atkins—The Government's policy is to seek acceptable ways of restoring power to locally elected parishes.

Mr. Hillary Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C)—Is there a great mass of detail to be discussed and a great many matters which need to be worked out between the parties?

Mr. Atkins—A conference at which all the parties could sit down together would be the best way to make progress.

Mr. Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab)—Could I place on record how sad I am that Mr. Gerald Fitt has seen fit to leave the last meeting of his party?

Does he think that any real progress will emerge from this conference? Which parties does he think will not come?

Mr. Atkins—I endorse what he said about Mr. Fitt whom we have all known for many years and I have felt it necessary to resign from the leadership of the party which he founded.

I cannot give him any firm information who will attend. I have had no formal invite.

Mr. Peter Stansfeld (Bromley, Orpington, C)—Mr. Atkins had made an honourable and praiseworthy attempt to achieve the impossible—to get all the parties to agree to a solution to this problem.

It appears this attempt will be unsuccessful, ought not the Government to be considering its own solution to the problem, as announced in the manifesto?

Mr. Atkins—The Government is determined to seek ways of transferring power to the elected representatives in Northern Ireland. The right course is to discuss with the people who will be exercising that power how best it can be done. The Government feels that a conference is the best way of doing it.

We shall not lose sight of our objective.

Mr. Gerard Fitt (Belfast, West)—The overwhelming majority of people of all religions and cultures in Northern Ireland want to see political advance. They have given no instructions to their leaders to boycott this conference. They do not want their leaders to attend.

The document drawn up for consultation could have been more diplomatically worded to assure people of all religious populations that their aspirations were not being totally excluded from any of the discussions about to take place.

Section A—The Five follows.

All is not lost. Even now, if he is prepared to give an indication to the minority community that their leaders in the SDLP, he may still find them at the conference.

Mr. Atkins—I take heart from that. I recognize the aspirations of the minority community. As for the internal government of Northern Ireland, the Government is determined to ensure that their interests are taken care of.

People talk about an Irish dimension. It means something to some people and other things to other people. Of course there is an Irish dimension. It is a practical one—how two communities living on the same island can help each other.

One example to which I attach particular importance is the question of how to help each other. The question of reconnecting the electricity grids is under discussion with Dublin.

An elected representative body

in Northern Ireland would have the opportunity of working out for itself the precise nature of its relationship with the Republic in respect of those matters in which it had transferred responsibility.

The Rev. Ian Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U)—As two parties invited to the conference are not going to accept the invitation, I would say that it would not be advisable if he calls a conference of the elected representatives in this House as they have a mandate from the people of Northern Ireland?

Mr. Atkins—As I have not had formal replies, I cannot say yet whether or not it will come.

The elected representatives have a major part to play. Any proposition will need to be agreed by the Government and MPs to come to a vote. Howe and MPs would be far and away the largest contributor to the budget in 1980.

The budget, as amended, was established by the Council of Ministers and subsequently referred to the European Parliament. All the proposals made by the Parliament would be a considerable extent, reinforce the reductions made by the Council of Ministers.

When I made a statement three weeks ago there were requests from all sides that the matter should be discussed before the conference. I agree that a

conference would be the best way of doing it.

Mr. Wynne John, Chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland (Pontypridd, Lab)—The resignation of Mr. Fitt would be a tragedy not only to the party he founded but to the community as well. He joins a growing band of Northern Ireland MPs who are not invited to the talks as at present constituted. Would Mr. Atkins consider reconsidering his strategy of the favoured four?

Can he by the time the debate of his document comes about, if not now, give us his considered view as to what the outcome of the discussions in the newspapers, the four of the four parties invited do not accept?

Would Mr. Atkins consider publishing the letter he sent to the SDLP last month and report in *Times* today?

The solution appears to modify his discussion document and ought therefore to be read in full in conjunction with the discussion document.

Mr. Atkins—I will consider any proposal which is put to me. I do not think I am in a position to answer hypothetical questions about what to do if certain things happen. It seems to the Government right that the people at the conference should be the leaders of the political parties in Northern Ireland.

It is regrettable that Mr. Fitt is no longer the leader of a political party. That does not alter the fact that the party of which he was a part still has a powerful role to play in the land.

The United Kingdom's excessive payments to the Community were the result of the cost of the high net contribution. In 1980, when Britain's share of the Community GNP would be around 16 per cent, Al-

## EEC states yet to grasp radical nature of steps needed to reduce UK share of budget

There were some signs that the United Kingdom's efforts to bring home to the EEC partners the consequences and nature of the problem of its share of the Community budget had begun to bear fruit. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in opening a debate on the European Communities budget and the United Kingdom's contribution towards the EEC budget.

Mr. Ian Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U)—As two parties invited to the conference are not going to accept the invitation, I would say that it would not be advisable if he calls a conference of the elected representatives in this House as they have a mandate from the people of Northern Ireland?

Mr. Atkins—As I have not had formal replies, I cannot say yet whether or not it will come.

The elected representatives have a major part to play. Any proposition will need to be agreed by the Government and MPs to come to a vote. Howe and MPs would be far and away the largest contributor to the budget in 1980.

The budget, as amended, was established by the Council of Ministers and subsequently referred to the European Parliament. All the proposals made by the Parliament would be a considerable extent, reinforce the reductions made by the Council of Ministers.

When I made a statement three weeks ago there were requests from all sides that the matter should be discussed before the conference. I agree that a

conference would be the best way of doing it.

Mr. Wynne John, Chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland (Pontypridd, Lab)—The resignation of Mr. Fitt would be a tragedy not only to the party he founded but to the community as well. He joins a growing band of Northern Ireland MPs who are not invited to the talks as at present constituted. Would Mr. Atkins consider reconsidering his strategy of the favoured four?

Can he by the time the debate of his document comes about, if not now, give us his considered view as to what the outcome of the discussions in the newspapers, the four of the four parties invited do not accept?

Would Mr. Atkins consider publishing the letter he sent to the SDLP last month and report in *Times* today?

The solution appears to modify his discussion document and ought therefore to be read in full in conjunction with the discussion document.

Mr. Atkins—I will consider any proposal which is put to me. I do not think I am in a position to answer hypothetical questions about what to do if certain things happen. It seems to the Government right that the people at the conference should be the leaders of the political parties in Northern Ireland.

It is regrettable that Mr. Fitt is no longer the leader of a political party. That does not alter the fact that the party of which he was a part still has a powerful role to play in the land.

The United Kingdom's excessive payments to the Community were the result of the cost of the high net contribution. In 1980, when Britain's share of the Community GNP would be around 16 per cent, Al-

ready in 1978 it had been a major factor in eliminating the invisible balance of the United Kingdom had enjoyed for 20 years.

There could be no justification for the burden which those arrangements placed on the United Kingdom.

Britain had not sought to argue, although it might have done, that the United Kingdom's contribution towards the EEC budget had been fairer to the other less prosperous member states. The balance of the budget at present embodied redistribution with a vengeance in that it redistributed to those who had from those who at present had not.

The restoration of the Community budget, which was envisaged at the time of accession, had not taken place. There were those in the Community who complained that the United Kingdom was not making improvements in its budgetary negotiations. He referred to the United Kingdom's emerging budgetary problems devised in Dublin in 1975 had proved insufficient.

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United Kingdom public expenditure.

The Government was glad to see some recognition of the point he had been making—that solutions needed to embrace contributions to the budget.

The Prime Minister and he had repeatedly said that the objective to be achieved in United Kingdom's budget was to move closer to the EEC.

That was the solution demanded by equity, and the position France had adopted.

There were three requirements: the solution must act on the whole problem, not just on the high contribution from the United Kingdom; it must be agreed by the European Parliament; and it must be agreed by the European Commission.

The agreed solution must be one which would last as long as the Community.

They were asking that the Community should not be asked to make further sacrifices in the budget.

Mr. Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said:

It follows that there would not be sufficient to offer a temporary measure which afforded relief for a year or two only and leave them in as ticklish a position as ever.

It was in everybody's interest that the problem should be solved once and for all. I long term developments took place, the Dublin summit faced a crisis of major proportions that few people in this country, and you get into a bind.

With falling gross national product, the contribution to public expenditure they must consider that Britain's payment to the budget was certain to exceed £100m in the coming year. Unless the Government borrows less, that would only result in the Community having to face a repeat performance of the difficulties in a year's time.

He was not wedded to any particular preference or mechanism, and separate mechanism: a single rate hitting the United Kingdom and the rest of the Community.

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## Obituaries Supplement

## Rise and fall of overseas contenders for power

## PRESIDENT HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE

## Significant influence in Third World

President Houari Boumedienne of Algeria died last December 27.

His real name was Mohamed Bou Kchirouba, and he was born at Guelma, near Béne, in 1925. He received a Koranic education at the Zitouna Mosque, in Tunis, and Al-Azhar University, in Cairo, and subsequently served in the French Army. He became, however, inspired by the growing Algerian Nationalist movement, and a meeting in Cairo in 1955, with Ben Bella, the leader of the Front de Libération Nationale, the organization controlling resistance to the French in within Algeria, caused him to throw in his lot with the rebels.

In 1957 he seemingly reentered Algeria, where the revolution was then in full spate, and soon displayed such ability and keenness in guerrilla operations that by 1958 he had been given the rank of "Colonel" in the "Liberation Army", and was in charge of operations in one of its five "Wlays", or regions. In 1960 he was appointed Chief of its General Staff and held this position throughout the remainder of the campaign against the French, which ended with a ceasefire in March 1962. After France had, by virtue of the agreement signed at Evian, the former must have promised independence to Algeria.

In June of the same year, in the course of the factional strife which broke out between the Algerian leaders as the moment of actual independence approached, he was dismissed from his post by the provisional Prime Minister, Ben Khedda. He continued, however, to control the bulk of the armed forces, and in July, after Algeria had achieved



country painfully short. In 1971 he carried the process further by nationalizing the French oil interests in the country, and successfully rode out the ensuing bitter clash with the French Government. By 1975 he was visited by President Giscard d'Estaing in a gesture of reconciliation.

In foreign affairs, again in contrast to Ben Bella, he gradually adopted a strongly moderate line, keeping Algeria out of the more extreme country, into modern, socialist, and industrialized state. To that end he replaced Ben Bella's foreign Marxist advisers by young Algerian technicians as earnest and dedicated as himself; step by step he nationalized all the basic resources; and in 1969 he instituted a "Four-Year Plan", intended mainly to develop agriculture and to expand education in order to provide the skilled manpower of which the French departure had left the

country painfully short. In 1971 he carried the process further by nationalizing the French oil interests in the country, and successfully rode out the ensuing bitter clash with the French Government. By 1975 he was visited by President Giscard d'Estaing in a gesture of reconciliation.

During the next years his policies bore fruit. His regime remained authoritarian, but there was little internal friction, and he found no need to change advisors. Moreover, in the conflict which grew up in the former Spanish Sahara, where it supported the independence movement, he was largely responsible for the illness which struck him down in the autumn of 1978.

Earlier he had come out strongly against President Sadat's Middle East peace initiative and travelled to Tripoli, in Syria and Iraq in an attempt to consolidate Arab opposition. In October last year he was in Russia where he joined Mr Brezhnev in condemning the peace negotiations.

prosperity; as a result, the educated Algerians developed a sense of purpose and self-reliant industry, and a confidence in the country's future, which had hitherto been lacking and which augured well for the future. Even a potentially controversial measure of land redistribution introduced early in 1972 was generally accepted.

In 1973 Algeria's growing stature began to be reflected in Boumedienne's influence in the Third World. In September he became Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Association of Non-Aligned States, a position of importance, and in November, following the October war between the Arab States and Israel, he played a leading role in an Arab Summit Conference held in Algiers, at which the lines of Arab policy towards an eventual Middle East settlement were laid down.

In June, 1976, Boumedienne decided to place Algeria under a regular constitutional regime. Following a national charter in June, 1976, this change was duly approved by referendum in November, 1976, and the following year Boumedienne was elected President. In January, 1977, a People's Assembly was duly elected.

From 1973 to 1976 Algeria was elected chairman of the "non-aligned world", and much of its Government's time was taken up with dialogues between the north and south of the area in question until in 1976 it withdrew. Meanwhile, from 1975 onwards the Algerian Government's attention was increasingly absorbed in the conflict which grew up in the former Spanish Sahara, where it supported the independence movement. It supported the Polisario against the attempts of the Moroccan and

Mauritanian Governments to take over the territory by agreement with Spain; and this conflict has continued until today.

Meanwhile Boumedienne's attention was increasingly focussed on the situation in his own country, where the land reform project which he had initiated had run into grave difficulties: enough teachers with an adequate knowledge of Arabic had not been produced, and the export of gas, on which great hopes had been placed, had been hindered by the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the necessary infrastructures, organization of the terminals of the pipelines constructed from the oilfields to ports on the North African coast. Boumedienne's difficulties had been increased by unemployment in Algeria, to which many hundred Algerians presently employed in France wished to return but could not find employment.

While therefore, the country was being supported by its steady, but not increasing, exports of oil, the line of its development had been considerably improved, and its major revenue was being slow in realization. The President, therefore, was being faced with economic difficulties which were difficult of realization; and this was perhaps largely responsible for the illness which struck him down in the autumn of 1978.

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## Mr Edvard Kardelj

Mr Edvard Kardelj, who died on February 10 at the age of 79, was for many years, until his illness a few years ago, considered the most likely successor to Marshal Tito.

A schoolmaster by training who relinquished his profession almost as soon as he got his leave to become a full-time communist at the age of 18, Edvard Kardelj belonged to that generation of young communists Tito chose when the Comintern appointed him general secretary of the then-ruled Yugoslavia Communist Party in 1937. He was in fact the most influential survivor of the inner circle of Tito's wartime partisans, the last of the small, tightly-knit group of Tito's closest associates, who represented the inner-most circle, the other two, Mr Milovan Djilas and Mr Alexander Rankovic, former vice-president and police chief, having both been disgraced in fact, Mr Kardelj had been the second man of Yugoslavia's hierarchy for as long as anyone had seen the first.

Quiet and unobtrusive, more at home in theoretical than in practical politics, and a symbol of power rather than the man of power, he had been the chief architect of Yugoslavia's brand of socialism. A Slovene by birth, Kardelj was one of those rare Yugoslav politicians who stood above local national interests and occupied an almost unique position as a man whose national importance was beyond dispute.

Outside his own country, he was often referred to as the heir apparent. This may not have been entirely true for the simple reason that no single person could ever have Tito's almost total power and personal authority to wield power on his own. But he was one of the two men, Dr Vladimir Bakaric being the second, who would have had the necessary personal authority and position to act as an impartial arbiter between various national interest groups in the event of Tito's death. He and Dr Bakaric were the only two men who sat on the nine-man state presidency as well as on the 24-man party presidium. Had he outlived Tito, he would have become the dominant figure within the collective system of succession of which he was the architect.

He had a mild manner and the impression of being uninterested in personal power. But beneath it, there was a man of great courage and of enormous determination who, more than any other Yugoslav, left his personal imprint on the Yugoslav scene. In 1943 it was Tito who made the historic decision to defy Stalin. But it was Kardelj who provided the theoretical basis for the defiance and who charted the alternative road.

If Kardelj was and remained the man Moscow mis-trusted and disliked more than any other Yugoslav, it was precisely because he was the man behind all liberalizing reforms from the beginning, in 1948, when the former student and teacher in Comintern's Lenin school first denounced soviet state capitalism and not down to preparing the theoretical groundwork for an alternative to the end, when, in 1978, Kardelj, already a dying man, told the Yugoslav party legisla-

## GENERAL LUDVIK SVOBODA

## Anti-climax for national pride

General Ludvik Sloboda, who died on September 20 at the age of 79, was elected President of the Czechoslovak Republic in March 1968, in succession to Antonin Novotny, who had been forced in the Prague Spring to resign both his posts of President and First Secretary of the Communist Party. The two posts were then separated and while Dubcek remained First Secretary Sloboda moved into the Prague castle to take up the office of President.

Under normal circumstances Sloboda could scarcely have hoped to merit such high office. Before the war he was a lieutenant colonel of no particular distinction and achieved fame only after his flight to Poland and later to the Soviet Union, where he formed and led the Czechoslovak military unit which surrendered under Soviet control. He owed his appointment as Minister of Defence in 1945 to his position as General commanding the Czechoslovak Army Corps, the support of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and the good will of the Soviet Union. During the Prague coup d'état he came out in support of the Communists, joined the Party and was president of the Prague Action Committee

which was responsible for dramatic changes of non-Communist in all walks of life. Although this won him the post of Deputy Prime Minister in 1950, he was dismissed from his governmental posts the next year, and his political career under the "illegal" congress of the Party which took place in Prague in secret. In his book he wrote: "The idea that a people who have been invaded should surrender its liberty and independence to an aggressor without a fight is incomprehensible for the Soviet people." And yet this is exactly what he made the Czechoslovak people do after 1968.

The Russians who had expected to find in him a pliant tool were a little disconcerted.

He was re-elected President in 1973 but was later several times in hospital and was succeeded as president by Dr Husák in 1975.

The same could not be said of his wife and family. Mrs Sloboda spent almost the whole war in Czechoslovakia in hiding and working for the resistance. At a crucial moment of Sloboda's talks in Moscow in 1968 he is said to have rung her up and received the order not to give in. His son was caught and killed by a lethal injection by election officials in 1942, at the age of 17. Sloboda learnt of this during the heaviest fighting of the DUKLA campaign.

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# Careers in diplomacy and administration

## Sir Cecil Dormer

Sir Cecil Francis Joseph Dormer, KCMG, MVO, who died on July 28 at the age of 96, was the fifth son of the Hon. Hubert Dormer. He was appointed a clerk in the Foreign Office in 1905, a Second Secretary six years later, and was assistant private secretary to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs during almost the whole of the First World War.

These early days in Dormer's career were spent while the service of diplomacy was being undertaken under the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy—it was in 1904 that he exchanged signals with Buenos Aires. With such developments, some of the initial initiative possessed by British envoys abroad was lost and Whitehall assumed a tighter control on affairs. Furthermore, with the advent of the war in 1914, the Foreign Office was involved in plans to defend the German colonies by naval blockade and was also responsible for British propaganda. The number of officials rose by dramatic proportions.

Dormer married in 1915 Lady Mary Fielding, eldest daughter of the 9th Earl of Denbigh, and she was to prove a staunch ally and mentor in the much-travelled life that lay ahead of the couple. After the war they journeyed to Caracas, then to the Vatican and, in 1926, Dormer was appointed Counsellor to the British Embassy in Tokyo. This was not long after the disastrous earthquake which resulted in a fire of dimensions previously unheard of in world history, which gutted 25 square miles of the city. The embassy had been destroyed and Dormer worked in makeshift premises in straw, placed over a tin roof to keep down the heat of the sun. The embassy, after a steep climb, was killed by fire and he had used daily his bowie knife to scare away the evils and ensure that her late husband was aware of her continued devotion.

After Tokyo, Dormer was appointed Minister in Siam, and in 1929, from one of a series of posts to another, journeyed to Norway. The German assault on Norway in 1940 took everyone by surprise, and the first consideration became to remove the Norwegian royal family to Britain in exile. It became Dormer's duty to supervise this operation and, at this point, his wife's organizational genius was shown full sway. Cars were astutely organized but, clearly, light luggage could be carried. Lady Mary Dormer was prudent in possession of belt with pockets wherein her jewellery could be contained. It was she who held up the art of the convoy, and insisted that spades and chains, car tyres against snow or sand should be included in the inventory. Without such equipment it is more than likely that the Norwegian royal family could have been captured by the Germans. The journey north, where the British were sailing on their teeth, was epic. The Norwegian armed forces were in disarray and no one knew where the Germans were. There is little doubt that the royal convoy, which was in Singapore in 1935 and 1936, had indeed been appointed United Kingdom member of the European Commission for the Referendum in the Saar, from which, however, he had no respite owing to illness some months later. In 1933 he joined the board of the merchant banking firm of Singer and Friedlander Ltd and he was also a director of International Aeradio Ltd. He was re-employed by the Foreign Office in connexion with the Anglo-Egyptian Finance Agreement, 1939-64.

## Sir John Hall

Sir John Hethorn Hall, KCMG, DSO, OBE, MC, who died on June 17 at the age of 85, had a distinguished record in the First World War and in the Second was Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Aden, and from 1944 to 1951, Governor and C-in-C, Uganda.

Born in 1894, he was educated at St Paul's School and at Lincoln College, Oxford, where he obtained his degree. He was then on military service in the European war until 1919, was mentioned in despatches and awarded the MC, DSO, and Croix de Guerre of Belgium.

After his release from the Army Hall entered the Egyptian civil service, was posted at the Ministry of Finance, and employed there until, under the reconstruction scheme, he became in 1921 an assistant principal in the Colonial Office, where he worked in the Middle East Department on the affairs of Iraq. In 1923 he was promoted acting Principal and in 1925 Principal. At this period and during the ten years which succeeded it he was on various occasions accredited representative to the Permanent Mandates Commission. From 1929 to 1932 he was a member of the British delegation to the League of Nations. Seconded in 1932 to the Foreign Office, he was appointed in the following year to be Chief Secretary to the Government of State at the Home Office, who died on May 29 at the age of 76, was one of an outstanding generation of civil servants who rapidly absorbed and passed on the finest traditions of public service in Britain.

relations between the United Kingdom and the new kingdom of Saudi Arabia, visiting Riyadh and Jeddah in 1937. Lady Rendel accompanied him, in native dress, was the first European woman ever to be received by King Ibn Saud. He had also been largely responsible for organizing the Montreux Straits Conference in 1936; and, early in 1938, he was sent to realize an aim he had long had in view, the negotiation in Rome of an Anglo-Italian Agreement about Arabia and the Red Sea area, which unfortunately came too late to stem the tide of Mussolini's pro-German policy.

In 1938 he was appointed British Minister in Sofia. His task was to prevent Bulgaria from falling into German control and, after war broke out, to keep her at least neutral, were defeated. On the eve of the German troops into Sofia in March 1941, he broke off diplomatic relations and left via Constantinople, where a bomb placed by enemy agents in the luggage of the Legation party exploded, killing two members of his staff and severely wounding several others.

On his return to England he was first given the task of working out the scheme for the reorganization of the Foreign Service which had been instituted by Mr Eden (as he then was). Sir Orme-Sargent was in charge of the reforms, but many of the details were adopted from Rendel's recommendations. He was at the same time accredited to the Yugoslav Government in London, but, when HM Government decided to transfer their support from Mihailovich to Tito, he found his position increasingly difficult and asked to be given another post.

During the next three or four years Rendel attended a number of international conferences in the United States and elsewhere, especially in connexion with the formation of Unesco. He particularly devoted himself to the cause of the refugees, who were already becoming a serious problem and took a leading part in the creation of what became known in 1947 as the International Refugee Organization.

In the spring of 1947 he was appointed by Mr Ewen to be the United Kingdom Member of the Austrian Treaty Commission in Vienna; but it was clear that the Russians had an intention of concluding a treaty, and he was appointed British Ambassador to Belgium, where his first important task was the negotiation of the Treaty of Brussels, and where he became a close friend of M Spaak. He was also the first British Ambassador to Belgium to pay an official visit to the Congo. He retired on pension in May 1950 at 61.

Having been sent to a conference on short-wave broadcasting, which was rendered abortive by Russian refusal to attend, in 1951 Rendel was appointed United Kingdom member and chairman of the Tripartite Commission on German Debts, for the successful outcome of which he was considered to have been largely responsible. He became chairman of the Singapore Constitutional Commission with which he was in Singapore in 1951 and 1954, and in 1955 was appointed United Kingdom member of the European Commission for the Referendum in the Saar, from which, however, he had no respite owing to illness some months later. In 1953 he joined the board of the merchant banking firm of Singer and Friedlander Ltd and he was also a director of International Aeradio Ltd. He was re-employed by the Foreign Office in connexion with the Anglo-Egyptian Finance Agreement, 1939-64.

## Sir George Rendel

Sir George Rendel, KCMG, had a long and distinguished career as a diplomat, died on May 6 at the age of 90. George William Rendel was born on February 23, 1889, and one of an eminent engineering family. He was educated at Downside and at Queen's College, Oxford, where he obtained classical scholarship in 1907 and a first in History in 1911. After studying at Heidelberg, Bonn and Paris he passed first to the Diplomatic Service (as then was) in 1913, and was appointed to Berlin, but was transferred in 1914 to Athens, where he witnessed the long struggle between Venizelos and Constantine, of which he gave a vivid account in his book *The sword and the olive*. After serving in Rome, Lisbon and Madrid he was transferred to the Foreign Office, where he was head of the Eastern Department from 1930 to 1938.

In that capacity he played a leading part in cooperation with Sheikh Hafiz Waibak, the Iranian Minister in London, in establishing close and friendly

relations between the United Kingdom and the new kingdom of Saudi Arabia, visiting Riyadh and Jeddah in 1937. Lady Rendel accompanied him, in native dress, was the first European woman ever to be received by King Ibn Saud. He had also been largely responsible for organizing the Montreux Straits Conference in 1936; and, early in 1938, he was appointed British Minister in Sofia. His task was to prevent Bulgaria from falling into German control and, after war broke out, to keep her at least neutral, were defeated. On the eve of the German troops into Sofia in March 1941, he broke off diplomatic relations and left via Constantinople, where a bomb placed by enemy agents in the luggage of the Legation party exploded, killing two members of his staff and severely wounding several others.

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It is perhaps a little ironical that for the rest of his official service he should have been assigned to a territory where in land nowhere rises more than a few feet above sea level. At first, however, the broad estuary of the Ganges river gave him ample scope to indulge his alternative passion for sailing. In later years, after his retirement, this passion led him to a circumnavigation of the world in the 12-ton sloop, Gunning Grunel.

His administrative and political experience, his deep knowledge of and sympathy with the African, and his calm and courteous, yet firm, approach to the problems of government, made him an admirable choice as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gambia Colony and Protectorate, where he served from 1949 until 1958. In 1958, when he retired, he was soon drawn upon again for he was invited to serve as a member of the Devlin Commission which was appointed in 1959 to enquire into the disturbances in Nyasaland. On relinquishing the Governorship in 1958, Wynn-Harris retired to Suffolk, but his experience and shrewd counsel were soon drawn upon again for he was invited to serve as a member of the Devlin Commission which was appointed in 1959 to enquire into the disturbances in Nyasaland. In 1960 he was appointed to serve as Administrator of the Northern Cameroons when that territory was separated from Nigeria on the grant of independence to the latter. In this capacity it was his task to organize a plebiscite to determine the future constitutional status of the country.

## Sir Austin Strutt

Sir Austin Strutt, KCV, CB, a former Deputy Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, who died on May 29 at the age of 76, was one of an outstanding generation of civil servants who rapidly absorbed and passed on the finest traditions of public service in Britain.

of Uganda, where he remained until his retirement from the public service in 1951.

For a man of Hall's energy and ability, retirement did not signify idleness. He threw himself into a large number of business activities, becoming chairman of the Limmer and Trindale Lake Asphalt Co., deputy chairman of the Chemical, Medical and General Life Assurance Co. and a director of the Midland Bank, the P. & O. Steam Navigation Co., Friary-Meux Ltd, and other companies.

Apart from his military distinctions, Hall was made an OBE in 1931 and a CMG in 1935. He was promoted to KCMG in 1941 and to GCMG in 1950. He held the first class of the Order of the Brilliant Star of Zanzibar and was a Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

In 1927 he married Torrida Trevenen Mills, by whom he had two daughters.

Lord Helsby, GCB, KBE, who was head of the Civil Service from 1963 to 1968, died on December 5 at the age of 70.

Laurence Norman Helsby was born in April 1908 and was educated at Sedbergh and Keble College, Oxford (for both of which institutions he always maintained the highest regard).

After leaving Oxford, he lectured in economics at the University of Exeter for a short time, and then at the University of Durham from 1931 until

evolving the solution that when he retired there should be three separate posts held by three separate persons—two Joint Secretaries of the Treasury and the Secretary to the Cabinet. When he left, Sir Burke Trend was appointed Secretary to the Cabinet; Sir William Armstrong was appointed to be Joint Permanent Secretary to the Treasury in charge of the Finance and expenditure side; and Sir Laurence Helsby (as he then was) was appointed to the third post.

His appointment, involving as it did a direct translation of the Ministry of Labour, he had been made Assistant Secretary to the Treasury at the end of 1944, and at first had been concerned mainly with pay issues; but at the end of 1945 he had been made the first head of a new division set up to deal with new professional classes. In effect he had been given the post of Secretary to the Cabinet immediately after the war, Sir Edward Bridges had held this onerous and responsible post until March 1950, being promoted to Under-Secretary in situ in April 1948.

His appointment in 1962 as a joint Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and head of the home civil service was the consequence of prolonged thought about the best way of organizing the key top posts in the Treasury and the Cabinet Office. Sir Edward Bridges had for a time concerned the posts of Secretary to the Cabinet, but he had been made an Additional Secretary to the Cabinet, took over the similar appointment in 1956, when Sir Edward Bridges retired, two joint Secretaries of the Treasury were appointed; but Sir Norman Brook held one of these posts—that in charge of pay—and management and carrying the title of head of the Civil Service—as well as being Secretary of the Cabinet. 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## Obituaries Supplement

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## Mr James Margach

British Expeditionary Force and a few months later AQMC and Controller of the Central Purchase Board in France. After the Dunkirk disaster he held home commands in the RASC until demobilization in 1945. He brought out *"The Times Record of British War Production"* in 1945 but the shortage of paper led to considerable curtailment of the special numbers and Maude temporarily rejoined the home news department as chief sub-editor on the retirement of Mr G. F. A. Anderson. By 1947 the paper had eased sufficiently to permit the publication of some special numbers, though not on the previous scale and he took charge of those dealing with the British Scientific Industry, Canada, and the British Industries Fair, retiring from the staff in 1950.

He was Hon Colonel 36th (London) Armoured Divisional Column, RASC TA, from 1947 to 1953 and was a Deputy Lieutenant, London, 1937-1976.

He married, in 1910, Dorothy, daughter of Frederic Upton. She died in 1950. Their only son is Angus Maude, MP, currently Paymaster General.

## Mr W. A. Darlington

Mr James Margach, through the post-war years political correspondent of *The Sunday Times* and since retirement its political consultant, died suddenly on March 23. He was 68, and had returned from a family holiday overseas only a few days before, after completing his second candid memoir on the uneasy relationship between Government and the press. His first book on the theme, *The Abuse of Power*, may be reckoned the best documented study of the relationship yet to appear since Delano, as Editor of *The Times* in Victorian days, chided that Ministers and press had different responsibilities; and the fact that it grew out of the experience of the most urbane and unprovocative of political reporters increased its force.

Nobody else ever served so long as Margach in the Parliamentary Lobby at Westminster. He was 22 when he came from Aberdeen to join it, and he kept his numberless political friendships warm until the end. During more than 40 years he was the confidant of 11 Prime Ministers, and often their personal friend; and succeeding generations of politicians, high and low, gave him their complete trust and valued his judgment.

He was the model of that school of Scottish local journalism to which Westminster has always owed much. He physical and intellectual stature was allied a commanding presence, the result of fact and an accompanying catholicity of friendship that obscured his own political opinions. No politician could ever be sure how he voted, even though for many years he wrote a well-informed and influential political column under the by-line of Student of Politics. He made a good listener; he preferred to be a mirror reflecting the opinions and knowledge of others rather than a heliograph sending out signals. There was nothing opinionative in his reporting.

Ramsay MacDonald and Stanley Baldwin equally entrusted confidences to him; he enjoyed the friendship impartially of James Maxton, the Clydesdale rebel, and Lord Swinton, the Tito-magnate, whose memoirs he helped to write.

Born in Elgin, Margach made his mark quickly with the *Aberdeen Free Press and Journal*, and as a local reporter he first met Ramsay MacDonald, soon to become Prime Minister for the second time. His paper sent him to Westminster to report politics, and once there he wanted to do nothing else. On his first day in the Commons MacDonald, as Prime Minister, invited him to a private interview, to the dismay of all his newspaper rivals. As he began, so he continued.

He became the senior political correspondent of the whole Kemsley group of newspapers, and later of the Thomson group, where *The Sunday Times* continued to be his weekly platform.

Margach's habitual encouragement to newcomers in an arduous lobby trade was a smiling comment that "you are doing a good job". His own best epitaph would be to say that at Westminster, for so long that anybody he unflinchingly did good for his newspaper, for journalism, for politics, and (above all) for his readers. He had the modesty to make himself a loyal servant of truth, and all the controversies of politics left him unscathed.

## Col A. H. Maude

Colonel A. H. Maude, CMC, DSO, TD, DL, who was from 1920 to 1950 a valued member of the editorial staff of *The Times*, died on June 6, aged 93.

The eldest son of Edmund Maude, Alan Hamer Maude, died at Highgate on August 15, 1959, and was educated at Eton and Oriel College, Oxford, where he took a third in *Literae Humaniores* in 1908. He was a member of his college Eighth in the year before he took his degree. His bent for journalism found expression while he was still at Oxford and in 1907 he edited the *Isis*. In 1912 he joined the staff of the *Daily Chronicle* as a sub-editor.

He joined the Territorial Army in 1909 and in 1914 he was mobilized as a captain in the 2nd London Divisional Transport and Supply Column and served with that unit in France and Belgium. Appointed Senior Supply Officer 47 Division in 1916, he commanded the divisional train from early in 1918 until May 1919, when he was appointed to a similar post in 59 Division. From August to December 1919, he was second in command of the RASC, London District, when he was made a CMG, having been awarded the DSO in 1917.

Soon after demobilization at the end of 1919 he joined the staff of *The Times* and for 17 years worked as a sub-editor in the home news department. In 1937 he was appointed editor of the special news department. He had maintained his military interests and held the command of his old unit, the 2nd London Divisional Train, RASC until 1929.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 he was appointed Assistant Director of Supplies and Trans-

port at the headquarters of the

Express, he was a prolific author of novels, historical and travel works, parades and original verse. The impress that his flamboyant personality and infectious sense of fun made on his friends between the wars was brilliantly brought out by A. G. Macdonell, who caricatured him as Mr Higgins, the raconteur and practical joker in England, *"Their England"*.

John Cameron Andrew Birmingham Michael Morton was born in Tooting on June 7, 1893, the son of Edward Morton, Author of *San Top*, and Rosamond, daughter of Captain Devereux Bingham of Wartnaby Hall, Leicestershire. He went to Harrow and once remarked "What on God's earth do people mean by 'the Public School Type'? Why, in one House we had Field Marshal Alexander, Pandit Nehru and me."

At Worcester College, Oxford, when war broke out he promptly enlisted, serving as a private in the Royal Fusiliers in France; he was commissioned in the Suffolk, blown up on the Somme, and transferred in 1917 to the 7th. He spoke of himself as intelligent, before which he was the best of us".

*The Duke of Pinney*, published in 1919, is a novel based on his war experiences. In 1922 he joined the Roman Church and in the same year the *Daily Express*. A failure as a reporter, he found the ideal medium for self-expression when he succeeded his friend D. B. Wyndham Lewis, as Beachcomber in 1924. Some of the characters with which he animated this daily "By The Way" column—Dr Strabismus (Whom God Preserve) of Utrecht, Produse, Mr Justice Cocklecarrot, Captain Poulet-nough, Mr. Witch, Dingley, Lord Cabornleigh, and the rest of an all-star cast—were given a new lease of life in a series of popular TV programmes in 1968. His school Narkover had by then become the Eton of the spivs. It is ironical that he had poured scorn on wireless from the earliest days of broadcasting.

As an historian he was drawn to France. This side of his interests found expression in *The Bastille Falls* (1936), *The Dauphin* (Louis XVII) (1937), *Brumaire: The Rise of Bonaparte* (1948), *Camille Desmoulins and Other Studies of the French Revolution* (1951), and *Marshal Ney* (1958).

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## N ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT

the most banal statement about Mrs Thatcher's government is to the most important: she will either succeed or fail. We hope at she will succeed, not only cause the success of any government must be in the national interest but because her government's market approach to the economic problems is necessary to balance the excessive movement to socialism in a post-war period.

It is certainly too early to tell whether her policies will be successful or not. That will be assured in terms of unemployment, levels of taxation in years to come. If she does succeed then will no doubt win the next general election and national politics will follow a mainly Conservative course in the 1980s. Lady Macbeth, though in a later cause, Mrs Thatcher believes that the best answer to the question: "if we should fail?" is "screw your courage to the eking place and we'll not fail". That, though heart-warming, was an entirely prudent answer Lady Macbeth's "no" for Thatcher, and it would be a very poor answer indeed if it were offered by *The Times*. It sensible to look at the alternatives.

his in essence is what Mr Roy Jenkins did in his Dimbleby Lecture last night. There is only way to reach proportional representation is to return a majority of Members to some future House of Commons who are committed to it. It is not reasonable to expect that the Liberal Party could achieve that majority on their own. If it is to be done at all it must be done by some coalition of the centre and that would have to come into existence before and after the General Election. The coalition must put an agreed programme to the electorate. This would be the effective form of the "radical centre" to which Mr Jenkins referred.

A coalition of the centre could well win an election outright if Mrs Thatcher does not succeed

## ORTGAGES BROUGHT INTO LINE

At the moment that the Bank of England's minimum lending went to 17 per cent and the government announced major easements in the interest rates on national savings to come in the year it was inevitable that building societies would put their mortgage rates. It is a sensitive issue for the government. The needs of the first-time home buyer in particular cause political concern.

In addition for many people, the inevitable increase in mortgage payments will substantially cancel out the benefit of year's income tax cuts. The voices even within the conservative party are already urging that developments of this on the financial front are driving the government's economic strategy off course. In fact of the matter, however, at the stabilization of the economy and the squeezing out of inflation and inflationary ex-

## ACK TO BOYCOTTS

sad that the first consequence of the government's fiscal initiative" in Northern Ireland is the resignation of Mr Gerry Fitt from his party and membership of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which he was instrumental in founding years ago. Apart from the speaker or absentee he has the sole and doughty representative of Catholic Ulster in the House of Commons for more than thirteen years. In Belfast he stood out as a man of age and reason. His political stance has been one of the making possible the belief that the enemies of the people are reconcilable. He keeps seat, but he is severed from the SDLP, though not exactly sectarian, is the main plank for the Catholic/unionist vote. While opposing him in front it has opposed continues to oppose republicanism behind. So long as John Hume acts as leader there is a fair assurance that will remain the position.

## Freedom in Pakistan

Mr Howard Coats

Pakistan's ruling junta is now the nose and the teeth against the spine of society in the rising stepped-up martial law it launched on October 1.

Apparently realising that these political parties were only a symptom and not the root of the country's malady, the junta is moving against its supporters from politicians and journalists to demonstrators, it's a bid to halt, if not "the drift to an uncertain fate."

Two weeks after writing those words, Salamat Ali, Pakistan's correspondent of the Hong Kong-based *Eastern Economic Review*, was from his home at midnight, a journalist held in high regard as fair and balanced account of Pakistan's current political and economic realities, at the time of his arrest, was languishing in prison in apparently appalling conditions. He had been detained from police custody, though no military court (though no one was preferred) and now his fate under martial law hangs in the balance. The Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali

developed such influence in the trade unions, and in the Labour Party has the support of only a small minority of the electorate. Its power in the Labour Party is gained by packing small committee meetings, intrigues and by the use of block votes which in no way represent the real wishes of the individual voters. It is not democracy; it is manipulation.

The obvious way to remove this danger is to change to a system of proportional representation. If Britain had any of the normal forms of proportional representation, there would be no danger of a Marxist government being formed because there is absolutely no danger of a Marxist majority. They cannot get to 50 per cent. We should therefore be safe from the most damaging political event that could at present happen to us. Some Conservatives are in favour of this but the Prime Minister is resolutely against it, and has the backing of her party. It is indeed the worst defect in her position: it amounts to saying that it is so important to have a Conservative government that Britain must take the risk of having a Marxist government emerge as the alternative.

So long as the Conservatives take this view, the only way to reach proportional representation is to return a majority of Members to some future House of Commons who are committed to it. It is not reasonable to expect that the Liberal Party could achieve that majority on their own. If it is to be done at all it must be done by some coalition of the centre and that would have to come into existence before and after the General Election. The coalition must put an agreed programme to the electorate. This would be the effective form of the "radical centre" to which Mr Jenkins referred.

A coalition of the centre could well win an election outright if Mrs Thatcher does not succeed

rowing money on which they are paying in real terms a negative rate of interest of some 5 per cent. If the Government are to maintain a credible economic posture, there is no way in which such borrowers can be given any further advantage.

The present situation only serves to underline the fact that in the past decade the building societies have become an integral part of the country's financial structure. Collectively they now have larger deposits than the clearing banks. These deposits have equally become increasingly volatile and sensitive to changes in relative interest rates. The consequence is that the building societies will have to become an increasing concern of the Treasury and the Bank of England, going way beyond their traditional function as savings and loan institutions for home purchase.

This was judged necessary if unionist politicians were to be brought under scoter's orders, but now the nationalists have had it.

The SDLP decision has eased the position in which Mr James Molyneaux's Unionists had placed themselves. They have so far spurned Mr Atkins's endeavours and said they will not enter the conference. They have their reasons, but they have put themselves in a bad light over here, where people have difficulty in understanding how the party of supposedly moderate unionism can refuse even to negotiate on the basis of an agenda which is unmistakably favourable to the preservation of the union. Their posture has somehow affected the stage lighting so as to leave the Rev Ian Paisley, hand outstretched in benediction, bathed in a soft glow of compromise. Unreality was taking over. Now it looks as if Mr Molyneaux will be able to protest that his estimate of Mr Atkins's conference was right all along.

law authorities that a gross error of judgment has been made. The word is that Salamat Ali will appear before a military tribunal on November 28. It is possible that after that protest will be too late.

Yours faithfully,  
HOWARD COATS,  
Managing Editor,  
*Far Eastern Economic Review*,  
Hong Kong

November 22

## Cutting down to size

From Lord Ferrier and Lord Byers

Sir, Having had time to assess and approve the statue of Earl Ayles in the Members' Lobby of the House of Commons, we contend that it serves to emphasize that the Lloyd-George statue is so completely out of scale.

Is it beyond the skills of present-day technology to have "LG's" recast to size—otherwise identical in every respect? This would serve to correct the obvious imbalance in a very important Chamber of the Palace of Westminster.

We are, Sir, yours etc,  
FERRIER,  
BYERS,  
House of Lords

## Accountability of the NEB

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Sir, The question posed in the last paragraph of your leading article today (November 22) as to whether the Board of the National Enterprise Board or officials of the Department of Industry provide the worse method of monitoring Rolls-Royce is what embarrassed politicians call "a good question". But you seek to justify your marginal preference for the former by suggesting that "the NEB is openly accountable".

At the same time voters will be leaving the Labour Party if the present trend to domination by the left is continued. It would be madness for people who want the sort of decent and liberal society which Mr Roy Jenkins advocates to vote for Labour candidates committed to a National Executive manifesto.

More nationalization, more spending, more bureaucrats, more taxation is a policy of decline for Britain, but it is also a recipe for the decline and fall of the Labour Party. The greatest remaining strength of the Labour Party is that it still has the experience and manpower of an attractive government while the Liberal Party on its own does not.

Could the centre provide a genuine alternative government? That would depend on the character and strength of the coalition that was formed and on the quality and experience of the individuals who formed it. It is vital that the Liberal Party should welcome allies, but equally vital that the coalition should be clearly defined.

Britain is not only a changing, but a changed society. The old Labour Party is already dying in large areas of the country: in the South-West Mr David Owen's nearest Labour neighbour sits for Pontypridd—a long way from Plymouth. The creation of an alternative Government which would not be a disaster for Britain is now both feasible and necessary. It would give a new form to Mr David Steel's Liberal Party. It would make the institutional changes which would allow Britain a greater stability of government than we have had since 1964.

I am your obedient servant who is particularly glad to see you back,  
BOYD-CARPENTER,  
House of Lords  
November 22

Jury vetting

From Professor Colonel G. I. A. D. Draper

Sir, In their article under this title, in your issue of the 19th Miss Harman and Mr Sedley contend that the Attorney-General's office has the opportunity to put an end to this dubious legal practice" (also see your editorial, November 20). They are referring to the practice of the prosecution in a criminal trial of asking jurors to whom they object "in stand by for the Crown".

"If they that sue for the king will challenge any of those jurors they shall assign a cause certain, and the truth of the same challenge shall be inquired of according to the custom of the court".

This so-called "statute" is none other than our old friend the "Ordinance for Inquests" ordained by the King and his Council long after all the estates of the realm had gone home from the Parliament to which they had been summoned by Edward I on February 16, 1305. It is of this "Ordinance for Inquests" that Professor Maitland wrote his famous legal essay *De Mortuorum Parlamento* in which he stated "Since an ordinance was beneath the dignity of the Statute Roll, and we should have great difficulty in proving that it had the assent of the estates. But it was a concession by the king, and the king's ordaining power would easily cover the making of such a concession" (Maitland's Essays, p. 32).

In fact, the year 1305 was not,

for various reasons, much of a year for statutes at all on any subject, let alone on the challenging of jurors by the Crown. The language of the Ordinance is general and in no way purports to be dealing specifically with the trial of criminals before petty juries after presentation by juries. The Ordinance was made in answer to a petition by one Simon Palmer.

This, with respect to the two writers of the article, who is in doubt is not the legality of the modern practice of "stand by for the Crown" in criminal trials, but the legality of the "statute" of 1305 upon which they rely for the illegality of that practice.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
G. I. A. D. DRAPER,  
16 Southover High Street,  
Lewes,  
Sussex  
November 20

## Prayer Book language

From The Dean of Glastonbury

Sir, The Vicar of Glastonbury says that, unless we adopt new liturgies, the Church of England will become a "jewelled corpse". Thus the motive for liturgical change is fear of institutional death. Such fear is understandable. For a long time now institutions Christianity in the country have been faced with a decline from an infatuation with doctrinaire Marxism to semi-detached Marxism, from philosophical idealism to dialectical materialism, from following one class or country to following another. Those who preserved the liberal and libertarian principles of G. E. Moore and Bertrand Russell, Lytton Strachey and E. M. Forster, were tempted neither by Fascism nor by Communism and betrayed neither their country nor their friends.

And what has homosexuality to do with the case? It would be just as relevant to point out that Anthony Blunt is the son of a Church of England priest!

NICHOLAS WALTER,  
The Rationalist Press Association,  
Ltd,  
88 Islington High Street, N1

Cheaper rail travel

From The Reverend T. G. Comber

Sir, With the rise in rail fares now official and the reminder that they are already very high when compared with journeys by coach and even private car, when more than one passenger is concerned, may I suggest that the British Railway Board do a deal with the British public. The Senior Citizen's Rail Card, costing £7, is an obvious success from the Board's point of view, in extra revenue earned, as well as from that of one million holders.

Could not the Board offer exactly the same 50 per cent concession on all journeys to all citizens for a £30 Rail Card, with one considerable restriction, to safeguard against loss on commuter revenue and the over filling of trains, that travel be not allowed before 9 am.

It would not be everyone's cup of tea, but there are many people who travel occasionally and would do so more frequently were it not for the formidable fares.

And, if space permits, may I add

that if the Board shrinks from a venture of faith, would they remember that railways are justified by the use that is made of them, rather than the revenue they earn. And, after all, at today's rates, half a fare is still only a lot of money to add to the £20 that would already be in their pockets.

Yours sincerely,  
TOM COMBER,  
32 Alexandra Road,  
Oxford  
November 15

## The meaning of inflation

From Mr Bernard Gibbs

Sir, How do you or Sir Geoffrey Howe or anyone else concerned to explain the truth of the matter, expect to persuade people that it is a lunacy to try to keep down inflation by keeping down prices, when everyone endlessly uses the word "inflation" to mean "rising prices"?

Inflation means pumping air or

money into an economic system, in

order to distract it. In the economic sense it always implies "too much money", something which will ultimately cause rising prices; but the cause is not the same as the thing caused.

Yours faithfully,

BERNARD GIBBS,  
The Garden House,  
Filkins Hall,  
Filkins,  
Lechlade,  
Gloucestershire

November 18

Mountbatten statue

From Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. M. Walton, RAMC (retired)

Sir, Your review of Ralph Bennett's *Ulta in the West* in *The Times* today (November 19) is illustrated by a photograph of the German Enigma encoding machine with the keyboard in alphabetical order. I think this must be the original commercial machine from which the wartime version was developed.

The keyboard on the latter read:

Q W E R T Z U I O

A S D F G H J K

P Y X C V B N M

Cryptographers in Hut 6 had good

occasion to become familiar with it.

Yours faithfully,

H. C. M. WALTON,  
Magdalene College,  
Cambridge

November 21

The last goodbye

From Mr H. F. Macdonald

Sir, I am not sure that I can help to a formula which would assure his friends on the last Christmas card he sends them of his undying affection for them, unless *semper idem* after his signature will suffice.

But I should like to remind him

that many charities which supply

Christmas cards are going to suffer

a loss of income when people are deterred by the high cost of postage from buying their cards. I hope that those who follow Mr Lowe's example will also follow mine by giving a compensatory annual donation to the charity from which they used to buy cards.

Yours faithfully,

H. F. MACDONALD,  
17 Dreghorn Loan,  
Edinburgh 12.



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
November 22: His Excellency Monsieur Abdulkrim Benmamoud was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Monsieur Mouloud Ali-Khodja, King's Own Hussars; Monsieur Mohammed Azzedine Azzouz (Minister Plenipotentiary); Madame Benmamoud had the honour of being received by the Mayor of Ealing (Councillor G. Hugill).

Mr Richard Davies was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Own Royal Hussars (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment) was present today at the Hotel at Cecil Court, Euston Road, Ealing, W5, and was received by the Mayor of Ealing (Councillor G. Hugill).

Madame Benmamoud had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Michael Palliser (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty, was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Lady Anne Tennyson and Major The Lord Napier and Strickland were in attendance.

His Excellency Mr Francis Bugeja was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as High Commissioner for The Solomon Islands in London with the insignia of a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Mrs Bugeja had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mr F. R. H. Wright was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's

### Memorial service

The Earl of Albemarle A memorial service for the Earl of Albemarle was held at St Margaret's, Westminster, yesterday.

Canon John Baker officiated, followed by Canon George Taylor, who led the service. Lord Coleraine read the lesson. Among those present were:

The Countess of Albemarle, widow, and Mrs Kepel Ponson, daughter of the late Lord Ponson.

Mrs Bugeja had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Mr F. R. H. Wright was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Damascus.

Mrs Wright had the honour of being received by The Queen.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh held an audience for the British Ambassador to the Diplomatic Corps at which Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Prince of Wales and The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, were present.

The String Orchestra of the Welsh Guards played selections of music during the evening.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard and a dismounted detachment of the Household Cavalry were on duty.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, the National Federation of Housing Associations, this afternoon opened an extension to the Hotel at Cecil Court, Euston Road, W1, and was received by the Mayor of Ealing (Councillor G. Hugill).

Mr Richard Davies was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal High and Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment) was present today at the Hotel at Cecil Court, Euston Road, W1, and was received by Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. de Bousquet upon his taking of command.

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The Earl of Long

Of mice  
and  
spacemen,  
page 17

All your gift problems solved with  
**VICTORIA WINE**  
CHRISTMAS GIFT TOKENS  
• From £1 tokens at over 2000 gift shops throughout Britain—see Yellow Pages for your  
• Free gift card and envelope with every token  
• Tokens for a wide range of wines, spirits,  
beers, chocolates and cakes

# THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

**Stock markets**  
FT 100 411.0, down 2.0  
FT 500 64.61, down 0.01  
**Sterling**  
\$2,175.00, up 10 points  
Index 69.6, unchanged  
**Dollar**  
Index 65.6, up 0.2  
**Gold**  
\$393 an ounce, down \$3.75  
**3-month money**  
Inter-bank 17 to 17½  
Euro 1.41 to 1.42

## IN BRIEF

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Chemicals and ICI's  
fin 6, a joint venture which  
the largest single petro-  
chemical plant built in Britain,  
started production of ethy-  
lene, more than two years  
in schedule, at Wilton,  
Wales, has cost more than  
£1m, double the original  
estimate. Completion has been  
delayed by design and equip-  
ment delivery problems, high  
interseasonal and poor produc-  
tion site, bad weather and  
lorry drivers' strike. About  
250 people will be  
employed at the complex which  
has a capacity of 500,000 tonnes  
per year.

**Turbine project**  
E. Turbine Components, a  
subsidiary of the Associated  
Engineering Group, is to invest  
over the next four years in  
building a precision casting  
plant at Garforth near Leeds.  
The plant is due to start pro-  
duction in 1980.

There have been two main  
confusing day in Singa-  
pore. Mr. Richard Taittinger,  
the British businessman,  
sentenced to six months'  
imprisonment under the Com-  
munist Act again decided to  
appeal his sentence rather than  
have his appeal. At one  
stage it appeared he might be  
allowed to return to Britain  
and the appeal, but a judge  
decided not to restore his pass-

## Manufacturing investment shows downturn of 2.5pc over six months

By Caroline Atkinson

Further evidence of an immin-  
ent recession with a dip in  
business spending came yester-  
day with the publication of  
official figures for companies'  
investment and stockbuilding.  
Although these showed a rise  
in manufacturing investment  
in the three months to September  
this was not enough to bring  
manufacturing investment back  
up to its level in the first  
quarter of this year.

Comparing the latest six  
months with the preceding half-  
year, manufacturing investment  
has fallen by 2.4 per cent. This  
gives a guide to the underlying  
trend. Overall investment was  
2 per cent more in real terms  
in the third quarter of this year  
than in the second. However,  
the Government expects private  
investment to drop between  
this year and next.

Official forecasts also suggest  
a big reduction in stocks held  
by industry next year. The  
figures published yesterday  
show that manufacturing indus-  
try was still building up its  
stocks in the third quarter,  
although wholesale inventories  
stocks by 580m at 1975 prices  
the biggest reduction since the  
middle of 1975.

As the Government's tight  
monetary policies begin to bite,  
industry is likely to cut back  
sharp on spending on invest-  
ment and stockbuilding.

The Department of Industry's latest  
investment intentions survey  
indicates a fall of up to 3 per  
cent in investment this year.

Within the total of manu-  
facturing investment, spending on  
new building work has fallen by  
14 per cent on a six-month basis  
and that on plant and  
machinery has dropped by 2

per cent. Spending on vehicles  
has, on the other hand, jumped by  
20 per cent.

Recent investment figures have  
been distorted by the  
growth of leasing. This involves  
some investment which will  
be used in manufacturing  
industry is shown as part of  
the investment of service  
industries. The latter was about  
8 per cent higher in the first  
three quarters of this year than  
in the corresponding period of  
1978. The biggest increase came  
in spending on plant and  
machinery.

Manufacturing stocks rose by  
190m (at 1975 prices) in the three  
months to September. Stocks of  
finished goods accounted for  
£140m of this. There was a rise in  
the ratio of stocks to output  
during the quarter, but this  
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The Department of Industry's latest  
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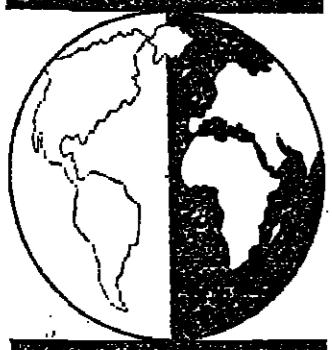
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## Sting Ray challenge in technological and project management skills

By Kenneth Owen  
Technology Editor

The Ministry of Defence's £200m contract for the Sting Ray anti-submarine torpedo, awarded recently to Marconi Space and Defence Systems, poses a challenge combining advanced technology and project management.

In technology, it is claimed to be four to five years ahead of work in the United States, in project management, a Mod incentive contract is reflected in the discipline Marconi aims to impose on its subcontractors.

Development leading to the Sting Ray began 10 years ago and has cost about £90m. The new contract is for final development and initial production, including possible MoD production orders over the next 10 years, the eventual cost of the programme could be about £300m at today's prices.

"Sting Ray will be the weapon on which our anti-submarine forces will be dependent in future for their effectiveness," declared Lord Southon, Minister of State for Defence. "In the coming financial year Sting Ray will cost only some 1 per cent of the defence equipment budget, less than half of 1 per cent of the defence budget as a whole, and about 7 per cent of our

total anti-submarine warfare costs. It represents good value for money."

The name "torpedo" with its connotations of white swathed gentlemen peering through periscopes, and trails of bubbles on the surface, is misleading. Sting Ray is designed to be launched from aeroplanes, helicopters and ships and to cut its target by sonar sensing cutting through the confusion caused by enemy counter-measures and manoeuvring.

Marconi Space and Defence Systems (MSDS), a GEC-Marconi company, is the prime contractor for the weapon and will develop the special-purpose guidance computer. Marconi Avionics will build part of the guidance system and actuator system for the steering will be made by Sperry Gyroscope.

Chloride Industrial Batteries will supply the electric battery, an extremely powerful unit activated by sea water as the missile hits the surface. Lucas Aerospace provides the electric motors for propulsion and auxiliary power supplies. Plessey is developing advanced large-scale integration (LSI) memory units for the computer.

"As far as I am concerned," says Mr Arthur Walsh, managing director of MSDS, "everything on this torpedo will be pur-

out to tender." There will be at least two sources of supply for everything except the final assembly at MSDS.

Sting Ray will provide work for between 4,000 and 5,000 people, amounting to more than 50,000 man-hours. The main centres are Basildon, Rochester, Kidsgrove, Stanmore, Hillend, Portsmouth, Willesden, Hemel Hempstead, Plymouth, Bracknell, Manchester and Worcester.

"Mr Sting Ray" at Marconi is Mr Don Evans, a director of all the company's underwater weapons work. He is assisted by Mr John Wright, and by Mr Andrew Glasgow, technical manager.

The trio believe in "healthy constraints" and pressures, carefully defined and documented, to keep their suppliers (including the relevant parts of Marconi itself) up to the mark on quality and cost. The MoD contract with Marconi provides incentives to complete development and the first production batch as quickly and economically as possible.

Marconi and the ministry are sharing the financial risk. A larger cost has been settled, on the basis of which an agreed level of profit will be paid. If the actual cost proves greater or smaller than the target, the

difference will be shared. At each stage in the programme bonuses will be paid if time is saved or specified performance is exceeded.

Don Evans is determined that potential delays and problems during the Sting Ray programme shall not be obscured by a lack of information. Every piece of information I have, my opposite number in the Ministry of Defence has."

His opposite number is Rear Admiral Tony Murphy, special project director, and information is regularly exchanged in fortnightly presentations at which key managers report on progress. "There is no discussion," says Mr Evans. "Admiral Murphy and I ask questions."

Mr Walsh is convinced that the experience gained in writing the software for the Sting Ray control system will help GEC in applying computerized control to industrial processes. Commercial spin-off is envisaged, also, from the low-power consumption memory micro-circuits being developed by Plessey.

Beyond the British defence requirement, export prospects for the new missile appear good—provided the lead in technology is maintained and the integrated strong project management is maintained.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Training the young for industry

From Miss Daphne Bampton

Sir, I agree with the statement made by the chairman of the Construction Industry Training Board (Business News, November 19) that increased investment in training is needed to overcome the present shortage of skilled workers. But this situation is not confined to the construction industry.

A serious shortage of skilled labour exists in all industries and the only answer to the dilemma is for employers to train more young people in craft and technical occupations than they are doing at present.

Commercial spin-off is envisaged, also, from the low-power consumption memory micro-circuits being developed by Plessey.

Yours faithfully,  
DAPHNE BAMPTON,  
Managing Director,  
Bampton Bros Limited,  
Stratton Road,  
Swindon,  
Wiltshire SN1 2PS.

### No help given in cutting out oil-use

From Mr R. J. G. Rait

Sir, The previous Labour government introduced several conservation schemes for industry, and these have been continued by the present Government.

However, the criteria one has to satisfy to qualify for a grant are so restrictive that I imagine the Department of Industry has had a problem finding suitable beneficiaries.

The example affecting my present employer is as follows. The Energy Conservation Scheme states that if you can prove that your existing oil-fired boiler is less than 70 per cent efficient, the government will give you a grant towards replacement of that boiler by another more efficient oil-fired boiler. The idea of this scheme appears to be to encourage people to use oil more efficiently and therefore to use less of it, rather than switch to an alternative fuel.

The firm I am employed by is a chipboard furniture manufacturer. The firm has decided to invest in a total system that will convert all waste material and offcuts into fuel. This, to a company of our size, is a very considerable investment, but it will mean that our oil consumption will not be reduced—it will be totally eradicated.

However, before the firm is accepted as one efficient oil-fired system with another more efficient oil burner, it does not qualify for government assistance. I cannot understand the logic behind the rules for this grant.

I have written to the Department of Energy, the Department of Industry and the local MP and have received a remarkable amount of sympathy and remarkably little else.

I would be interested to know if other people attempting to save fuel have been confronted by the same bureaucratic nonsense.

Yours faithfully,  
R. J. G. RAIT,  
Production Director,  
Shastow Furniture Limited,  
Stratton Road,  
Shaftesbury,  
Dorset DT7 9AH.  
November 13.

### Index-linked pension

From Mr R. J. Gardner

Sir, In the White Paper on Public Expenditure no reference is made to the index-linked pension. At a time when public sector pay increases are greater on average than those awarded in the private sector and inflation is approaching 20 per cent, the knock-on cost of these two factors as they affect the index-linked pension must be immense.

Surely it is time to curb this. It just does not make sense to have to set aside increasing funds out of the public purse for a privileged section of the elderly when youth is being penalized by the cuts in education.

Yours faithfully,  
R. J. GARDNER,  
The Coach House,  
Barleyshope,  
Nr Glastonbury, LE15 7EG.

### Information recorded by telephone meters

From Mr Norman P. Macdonald

Sir, Your correspondent Mr John Murphy (November 19) deserves congratulations for having been able to persuade the Post Office, who in my experience are always courteous, to identify fictitious telephone calls.

Not long ago, on returning from a period of residence in the United States, I asked the Post Office why the information which I had become accustomed to find on telephone bills there (similarly not available to Mr John E. Bachman of Brussels (November 20) could not be provided here. The answer I received was as follows:

"I am sorry but we do not know the full details of the telephone system used in the United States and are therefore unable to comment as to why the same system is not used in this country.

The British Post Office system in its present form can only record calls on a cycle-meter type meter and aggregate a total of units.

The meter at the exchange is connected only to your line

and readings are taken quarterly with electricity or gas.

They are regularly tested as routine work by our engineers and faults are rare.

Your meter was tested on November 13 and found to be working satisfactorily.

If I may again draw your attention with electricity units it would be possible for you to be given details of the proportion of units consumed in a quarter by specific electrical equipment; equally, it is not possible for us to tell you the proportion of units you have used during the quarter on any specific rate of call."

Perhaps the Post Office may consider investing some of the profits now made on the telephone service in substituting new equipment for what is clearly an out-of-date type of meter-for recording the origin, destination and duration of telephone calls.

Yours etc,  
NORMAN P. MACDONALD,  
The Mount,  
South Street,  
Mayfield,  
Sussex.

### Communications in EMI

From Sir John Read, Chairman of the EMI Group

Sir, Mr Norman Woodhouse is less than fair in his letter of November 15 concerning the recent suspension of EMI News.

It is true that publication of our monthly newsletters has been suspended on grounds of economy—as one of a number of measures taken by EMI to reduce costs—but it is not true to suggest that EMI is unconcerned about the need to communicate facts about the group's affairs to its employees.

Over the last 10 years much

effort has been given to the development of employee communication within EMI—including the production of regular financial reports and video programmes for all the group's companies worldwide.

In particular, great emphasis has been placed upon the holding of face-to-face briefing groups on a widespread basis, and priority continues to be given to this activity.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN READ,  
EMI Group of Companies,  
20, Mortimer Street,  
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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## First signs that gilts may be settling down

Gilt edged retreated on fears of labour trouble and Middle East uncertainty, and at one stage losses of up to 1% were being recorded. However dealers generally regained confidence after the Treasury's new economic forecasts, and by the close all the ground lost had been regained. Last night gilt edged observers were saying that the market was at last settling down, and some were hazarding a rally towards Christmas.

Among shares the clutch of big company news did not have too bad an impact. Assessments of the ICI figures were complicated by special items in the preceding second quarter.

*London Merchant Securities hardened a further 1p to 115p after jumping 8p the day before. But still there is something to go for through LMS's stake in the T block embracing the Tiffey, Thelma and Tony fields. The group is already rated highly as a trust with an impeccable property underpinning, but the oil is a bonus.*

The big disappointment was Beecham whose 10.5 per cent drop in interim profits prompted some dealers to suggest that this great group had gone exuberant. It was time to look at Glaxo, said to have a more promising range of new drugs. The news from House of Fraser was also disconcerting. Here the crash in profits was severe. The FT index fell 2.0 to 410.1.

Leading industrialists showed little change ahead of yesterday's long awaited figures from ICI, Beecham and Courtaulds and even less afterwards.

ICI figures were much in line with best market expectations, mainly as a result of the group's share in the Ninius Field and were duly marked 5p up when they finished the day at 357p. But a question mark continues to hang over the group's industrial side which has been struggling and a

reversal of the share price is not ruled out in some quarters. Figures from Courtaulds were well received by the market helped also by a maintained dividend. The shares advanced 2p to 30p. News from Beecham was less favourably received and the price retreated 7p to 119p. Elsewhere, Glaxo slid 7p to 396p, Fisons dipped 5p to 246p. Rank Organisation eased a penny to 181p while Unilever remained firm at 456p.

Oil shares continued to dominate the rest of the equity market particularly those with interest concentrated in the North Sea. Oil Exploration leapt a further 29p to 748p still awaiting the mystery bidder, widely tipped to be BP, which retreated 2p to 364p. Oil Explorations' possible merger partner Lasmo, which had expected third party to reveal all yesterday, also jumped 25p to 388p on rumours that it was attracting a possible bid from ICI. Tricentrol put on a further 10p to 273 following Wednesday's more than doubled third quarter report while Imperial Chemicals spurted 25p to 295p.

News of a big oil find west of Claymore boosted International Thomson 23p to 382p and Cavendish gained 15p to 163p. National Carbonising, active of late remained firm at 115p. Shell advanced 2p to 346p. Ultramar 8p to 115p while higher profits at Century Oils boosted the shares 10p to 115p.

Alkroyd & Smiethers rose 12p to 208p after excellent full year figures and Powell Duffryn advanced 15p to 140p after figures better than most estimates. Disappointing figures from Redland were helped by accompanying news of a scrip issue which helped the shares 2p to 165p and M. J. Gleeson 5p to 36p. A profits setback at Alfred Dunhill saw the shares dive 55p to 333p and competitors Rothmans International 1p to 471p after its interim trading statement.

Pauls & Whites slid 4p to 114p. In stores, third quarter figures from House of Fraser were greeted with 3p slide to 112p. Burton shares eventually held Wednesday's gain following the enrichment announcement, finishing at 258p, but the "A" shed 2p to 246p. Marks & Spencer and Mothercare both remained firm at 86 and 172p.

The recent rise in Furness Wyvern after Euromedians announcement that it was dispersing its stake came to a halt with the shares unchanged at 240p and Milford gave up 2p to 173p. Rumours that Ladbrokes was about to withdraw its gaming licence did little for the shares firm at 149p as Coral Leisure slipped 1p to 73p.

On the bid front Montfort Knitting put on 3p to 88p on news that Palma Investment had taken a 12 per cent stake and that the group intended to reject an earlier bid from David Dixon. Stroud Riley were 18p stronger at 40p after the announcement that a private

concern had taken a substantial stake. Thorn Electrical finished the day 4p up at 302p after dipping to 296p early on and EMI firmed 2p to 134p. Rumours continued to affect GEC which shed 1p to 326p and Avtrix which finished the same amount lower at 233p. Whessoe held firm at 128p but Costain were 2p easier at 132p. British

Gas edged up 4p to 114p. In stores, third quarter figures from House of Fraser were greeted with 3p slide to 112p. Burton shares eventually held Wednesday's gain following the enrichment announcement, finishing at 258p, but the "A" shed 2p to 246p. Marks & Spencer and Mothercare both remained firm at 86 and 172p.

Baker Perkins is now 80p, having moved quietly up from the 1978-79 "low" of 75p. The "high" was 139p. Rumours of a John Brown bid have faded, but there is the investment bid on profits a p.m. £2.14m to £19.80m in the year. A 50 per cent rise in sales and employment and board confidence in further growth this year. A recent rights issue means that this is one engineer unlikely to go short in the coming months.

Vita currently in talks with Vitex advance 3p to 128p while the latter remained unchanged at 71p.

In Electricals, speculation

pushed up the price of Grp periods 6p to 118p and J. Hewitt increased 6p to 40p. But interim figures from Sates saw the share price shed 1p to 22p. Muirhead finished 2p better at 246p in anticipation of figures next week and Racial moved 5p to the good at 215p. M. K. Electrical were unchanged at 176p but Decca retreated 10p to 280p in the "A" ordinary while the ordinary were 2p lighter at 247p.

Rhodesian shares were slightly easier after the activity of late. Cape Asbestos remained firm at 209p but Turner & Newall shed 2p to 115p and Lenore and Stockdale both gave up a penny at 65p and 99p.

Equity turnover on November 21 was 72,729m (10,963 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph were, ICI, Oil Exploration, Tricentrol, BP New, Lasmo, Courtaulds, Beecham, Cons Gold, IC Gac, Unibet, Shell, EMI, BP, Premier, Ultramar, Tinsbury, Racial, Pilkington Bros, International Thomson, a's and Land Secs.

## Rothmans and Dunhill hit by stronger pound

By Rosemary Unsworth

Half-time figures from the tobacco co-brewing group, Rothmans International, fell short of market expectations because of the strength of sterling, which hit profit margins and rising costs which were not matched by price increases.

Pre-tax profits fell by £4.5m to £39.2m while sales excluding taxes and duties rose 15 per cent to £515.7m in the six months to September 30, 1979.

Operating profit was similarly hit, dropping from £51.6m to £49.1m during the period.

Sir David Nicolson, the chairman, explained that although the overall volume of cigarette sales had exceeded last year's level and the group's export sales were made in the United Kingdom continued to grow, there were small declines in West Germany and Canada where these are strong domestic markets. But in France and the United Kingdom satisfactory progress was made. Results from Benelux and other markets also improved, he said.

The interim dividend has been raised from 1.19p gross to 1.42p, an increase of just under 20 per cent. Sir David said that the present fluctuations in currencies added weight to the adoption of a conservative dividend policy.

The group's brewing interests doubled their share of operating revenue from £25m to £100m while its share of operating profits show a similar increase from £4.1m to £7.4m.

## Interest drag on Pauls

Higher interest rates and bigger borrowings swallowed up any improvement in profits at animal feed stuffs group, Pauls & Whites.

At the trading profit level, the group made a 4 per cent improvement overall in the six months to September 30, 1979, but by the time interest charges had been deducted pre-tax profit at £3m, was £400,000 down on the comparable period. Turnover increased from £87.5m to £96.4m.

With capital spending running at a high level and some £20m put up in stocks of barley interest charges in the six months rose from a previous £53.4m to £121m. Although this will not turn the division into profit it will help to contain the losses. The shut-down and redundancy costs are not anticipated to be very high.

## Century Oils leaps 160pc in six months

Boosted by soaring raw material profits, profits at Century Oils leapt 160 per cent to £1.5m in the six months to September 30.

Sales by the Stock-on-Trent-based lubricants and industrial hydraulics products manufacturer, 65 per cent to £17.3m.

The group which raised £1.3m via a one-for-four rights issue in July to finance its increased working capital requirements, said yesterday that its turnover increase was also helped by a rise in overseas sales and in the volume of activity in UK markets.

An interim payment of 1.14p gross has been declared and the group has already forecast total payments of 5.2p gross on the enlarged capital for the full year.

The board said yesterday that it expects the higher level of sales to continue in the second half, while supply arrangements, stock levels and recycling potential should ensure continuity of supply to customers.

## Business appointments

Mr J. Raisman is new chairman of Shell Chemicals

Mr J. M. Raisman has become chairman of Shell Chemicals UK. Mr Raisman, who is deputy chairman and chief executive of ICI, succeeds Mr W. C. Thomson, who has recently become a group managing director of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group. Mr M. J. Wailes is appointed to the board of Shell Chemicals UK. He succeeds Mr. Thomson as Chemicals co-ordinator, London, in Shell International Chemicals.

Mr Simon Jenkins becomes a part-time member of British Railways Board and Mr. R. M. Mortimer, who has been with Royal Merchant bank, becomes a part-time member of the National Bus Co.

Mr. M. G. Wilcox is to succeed Mr. John Cave as chairman of Midland Bank Finance Corporation. Forward Trust and Midland Mortgages Leasing, when Mr. Cave retires on December 31, Mr. Wilcox will take over his executive position as a director and also general manager of Midland Bank.

Mr. B. Brindley has become the appointed actuary of Merchants Investors Assurance and Mr. K. Wren becomes pension manager.

## Options

Traded options continued to take a back seat yesterday and the results from ICI, Courtaulds and Beecham seemed to make very little difference. Total contracts amounted to 583 compared with the previous day's figure of 613. Some interest was shown in Courtaulds and ICI ahead of and just after the figures box, this was described as thin.

Traditional options were slightly more active mainly on the back of the interest being shown among North Sea shares with calls being arranged in Tricentrol, Ultramar and KCA.

## Redland marks time but scrip lifts payout

By winning on the roundabouts what it lost on the swings, building supplier Redland turned in near same again interim profits.

In the six months to September 29, 1979, the group made a pre-tax profit of £22.27m

against a previous £21.95m on sales £3m higher at £225.49m.

However, expectations for the second half are "rather higher" and the board intend to pay a maintained dividend on top of an interim one-for-four scrip issue. This will increase the payout to shareholders by 25 per cent.

The main improvement in the first half came from West German subsidiary, B. & C. Factory Bricks, Cargy, which manufactures concrete roof tiles. With the building of houses at record levels their director, Mr. A. Hitchens, anticipates the sales volume growth will maintain its momentum for the next couple of years at least.

The group's luxury products division was sharply hit by the drop in tourist expenditure in London although the volume of business overseas remained relatively satisfactory. Near 90 per cent of Dunhill's turnover comes from abroad.

Profit margins have also been reduced by higher expenditure on new activities and this group is cautious about the effect of increased interest rates and probably reduced consumer spending in the next few months.

However, an improvement in rail links between the main Midland quarry and the South English depots should help the crushed stone side to maintain costs.

The contribution from the overseas subsidiaries — where the financial year coincides with the calendar year — slipped slightly to £45.5m because of the bad winter months of January, February and March. The second half profits are expected to improve on last year's performance.

With borrowings currently running at around £13m, interest charges for the full year are likely to be high.

The additional charges are related to the funding of a \$56m acquisition in America. Although this was 50 per cent paid by the German subsidiary the balance has been charged against UK profits.

The shares improved 3p to 164p yesterday when they yield a prospective 7.2 per cent.

## FERGUSON INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS

BUILDING SUPPLIES  
ENGINEERING SUPPLIES  
ENGINEERING  
GIFTWARE  
PRINTING

## RECORD INTERIM RESULTS

6 months ended	6 months ended
31.7.79	31.7.78
(unaudited)	(unaudited)
£200	£200
36,284	26,500
2,557	1,228
596	236
1,981	1,852
278	39
1,633	933
595	252
1,178	701
—	159
1,776	830

For a copy of our latest accounts please write to the Secretary, (Dept. 10), Ferguson Industrial Holdings Ltd., Appleby Castle, Cumbria CA6 6XH

## CUMMINS ENGINE COMPANY LIMITED

## INTERIM STATEMENT

The unadjusted sales and net loss of the Company for the six months ended 1st July 1979 as compared with the sales and net profit for the six months ended 2nd July 1978 are as follows:

Six Months Ended	Six Months Ended
1st July 1979	2nd July 1978
£69,271,000	£43,207,000
£4,026,000	£1,391,000
2,094,000	(580,000)
£1,932,000	£211,000

Notes:

1. The figures for the six months ended 1st July 1979 include the results of the Daventry Division which the Company acquired in December 1978. If comparative figures for the Daventry Division had been included in the results for the six months ended 2nd July 1978 sales in that period would have increased by £7,590,000 and the profit before taxation reduced by £745,000.

2. The credit for taxation shown in respect of the six months ended 1st July 1979 has been calculated at 57% of the book loss for that period, and represents the release of deferred taxation previously provided. The full impact of implementation of S.S.A.P. 15 cannot be determined until the end of the year when its effect will be fully reflected in the Annual Accounts.

Registered office and U.K. Marketing Headquarters, Chichester House, St. Georges Square, New Malden, Surrey.

Trading results for the year 1979 will be announced on Thursday 28 February 1980.

The following table summarises the quarterly sales and profits before taxation:

Group profit before tax	
Group sales £m	Excluding exchange gain/loss £m
1978	
1st Quarter 1,060	119
2nd Quarter	

## INANCIAL NEWS

## House of Fraser slumps

Richard Allen, House of Fraser, the Harrods department store group, saw its turnover £4m to £2.8m in three months to October 27. Trading conditions continued deteriorate in the wake of increases.

As a result, profits for the nine months of the year down 30 per cent to £10.6m. Sir Hugh Fraser, chairman, Sir Hugh Fraser, has warned, at interim stage, that trading become particularly difficult since the June VAT ease. However, the actual outcome was much worse than stock market observers feared. Shares dropped 3p to yesterday, however, with the all-important Christmas quarter to come—the group traditionally earns around two-thirds of its profits in this period—Sir Hugh is holding some hope of a fairly strong recovery.

**LOX HOLDINGS**

has obtained additional financial consent for the sale of nine industrial units at Hambridge, Oxfordshire.

**ITPORT-PALMA**

Ima Textiles, an uplisted company, has acquired 360,000 ordinary shares (11.95 per cent) in Iport (Knitting Mills). Palma does not intend to accept David and Sons' bid for Iport.

**PERTY PARTNERS**

removed for half-year to September 30. Earnings £7.68m, net profit, £343,000 (£155,000). Pre-tax profit, gross, 2.85p.

**ER ELECTRICAL**

ter's turnover for half-year September 28 rose from £1.18m to £2.14m and pre-tax profits more doubled to £181,000.

Proposed to change end to May 31.

**GROUP**

has purchased Cognac Lasers and has entered sale, hire and services of lighting and pipe lasers for the auction industries in Britain and Continental Europe. The stock has been made for a consideration of £130,000 in Sheffield (Great Britain).

**FRANCE NETWORK**

A new International Network insurance has been officially held in London by the Cornhill Insurance Group, the United Kingdom network member. INT is first to provide a new form of policy insurance to offer jointly international insurance to companies who operate multi-national level.

**BARD ALLIANCE**

ard Alliance Insurance has formed by the merger of the KONG (Insurance) and Bowring of Lombard Insurance and Alliance Assurance. The main shareholders of Lombard are Jardine, Matheson & Co. and of the Subsidiary, the London Assurance.



Sir Hugh Fraser, chairman of the House of Fraser.

He says that trade showed signs of picking up in mid-October and since the beginning of the present month sales

have been running at more than 17 per cent above those of the same period last year.

Despite the third-quarter slump sales for the first nine months of the year are 14 per cent ahead at £415m and trading profits are down less than 10 per cent at £23m.

But interest charges have climbed by two-fifths to £5.7m and the depreciation charge is almost £1m higher at £6.8m.

Meanwhile, interest in House of Fraser shares continues to centre on speculation that London could make a takeover move. London holds fractionally less than 30 per cent of House of Fraser and its chairman, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland is deputy chairman of Fraser.

Since London made its financial deal with American billionaire, Mr Daniel K. Ludwig, earlier this year speculation that a full bid is on the offing has only increased.

**J. O. WALKER**

Group turnover for half-year to July 31 up from £2.2m to £3.7m and pre-tax profit, 1.15p, up to £220,000 (£51,000).

**AEREO & GENERAL**

Sales of Aeronautical & General Instruments for six months to September 30 up from £1.52m to £2.14m and pre-tax profits from £23,000 to £24,000. Board expects improved trading to be maintained in second half.

**PYRAMID (PUBLISHERS)**

Group results are "satisfactory" and hopefully will continue to be so to end of current year. Interim dividend, 0.82p gross (same).

**PROVINCIAL LAUNDRIES**

Provincial has bought 75 per cent of Mechaid Services, a contract cleaning company, for £25,000 in shares and cash.

## Briefly

**BARCLAYS BANK INT**

£100m now available on ECG-backed loan of over £400 to the National Bank of India.

**BELHAVEN BREWERY**

Mr Ronald W. Aitken, the newly-appointed chairman, is to propose that AGM be adjourned until December 7.

**HIRST & MALLISON**

A property formerly used by Hirst's removals division, but now surplus to requirements, has been disposed of for £380,000 cash.

**MAURICE JAMES IND**

for proposed reduction of capital being concluded; repayment will become effective about middle of 1980. Interim dividend of 0.75p, payable January 2.

**GEC-AVERYS**

GEC's offer for Avery, which closes on November 23, will be extended for at least 14 days in order that it becomes unconditional.

**C. T. BOWRING**

C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings is aiming for 20 per cent interest in W. Smith and Co (Insurance Brokers), based in Carlisle. Consideration will be satisfied in cash and its value and net profit of Smith represent less than 1 per cent of assets and the 20 per cent respectively of C. T. Bowring.

The issue, priced at 99.5 per

cent, has a maximum life of 15 years and an average eight-year term. The flotation date is December 4. Further details will be disclosed soon.

**FUJI BANK (Schweiz)**

A subsidiary of Fuji Bank of Japan, is the first subsidiary of a Japanese commercial bank to float a bond abroad.

**AUSTRALIAN**

government has made a 30,000m yen public bond issue on the Tokyo market, treasurer Mr John Howard said. The issue is priced at 99.5 per cent with an interest rate of 8.2 per cent per year for its 12 year term. As with Australia's three previous Tokyo bond issues, the issue is lead-managed by Nomura Securities with the Bank of Tokyo as the lead commissioned bank, Mr Howard said.

**EUROFIMA**

Eurofima, the European Investment Bank, has been consulted by the company regarding these arrangements. Mr Simmonds has indicated that it is not intended that a general offer will be made to all shareholders.

**FINANCE & IND TRUST**

Chairman, Mr J. C. S. Mott, has made it difficult to forecast business prospects, but directors are confident that steady growth will be maintained. They hope for a larger increase than has been possible for last few years.

**MAURICE JAMES IND**

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**FINANCIERE-SUEZ**

Cie Financiere Suez, holding company for a major French private banking group, says that

## French Kier ends half year 10 pc up

Despite difficult trading conditions in the British construction market and bad weather, French Kier Holdings made a 10 per cent increase in both profit and turnover during the first half.

Pre-tax profit amounted to £2.6m and turnover totalled £83m in the six months to June 30, 1979.

An interim dividend of 1.35p gross has been declared compared with 1.23p, which represents a 15 per cent increase. Earnings per share have risen to 3.7p compared with 3.2p.

Mr Mott added that he expects a "satisfactory outcome to the group's operations:

however, offset by an increased contribution to £1.1m from Construction Overseas. The anticipated profit increase from Property Development and Investment came through a £250,000 while Products and Services' profit rose slightly to £200,000.

In the six months to September 30, 1979, pre-tax profit slipped from a previous £6.5m to £6.18m on turnover up 12 per cent to £17.5m.

Stripping out interest charges, which amounted to £1.6m against £447,000 last year, profits at the trading level increased by almost 10 per cent to 5.8m.

Chairman Mr Christopher Aston admitted that this charge would rise further at the year end because of rising interest

## Powell Duffryn slips to £6.1m after strike and lower demand

By Alison Mitchell

The £1m cost of the engineering strike coupled to a downturn in demand has left Powell Duffryn with reduced interim earnings.

In the six months to September 30, 1979, pre-tax profit slipped from a previous £6.5m to £6.18m on turnover up 12 per cent to £17.5m.

Stripping out interest charges, which amounted to £1.6m against £447,000 last year, profits at the trading level increased by almost 10 per cent to 5.8m.

Chairman Mr Christopher Aston admitted that this charge would rise further at the year end because of rising interest

rates and bigger borrowings.

Gearing on this year's balance sheet is likely to amount to 20 per cent against 15 per cent last time.

Although capital spending, which includes the recent acquisition in America, is currently running at an annual rate of £20m, the group has no plans for a rights issue.

Stripping out H-3m, which is now sold to German group IBM—now 24.9 per cent owned by Powell—the engineering division contributed £1.68m against £3m. However the backlog of orders following the strike has helped the order book and the chairman anticipated a better showing from this division in the second half.

With two more ships on order the shipping side on expected to continue to increase profits while the other divisions all show rising contributions.

Second half earnings will be helped by a first time contribution from the recently acquired National Pump Company in Arizona, and the new bulk liquid terminal in Australia which is now on stream.

For shareholders there is a 9 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 6p and the chairman is confident that the final payment will be raised by the same amount provided second half profits continue to improve.

## Murdoch calls off bid for Herald

The bid by Australian newspaper chief Mr Rupert Murdoch to win control of the country's biggest press group, the Herald and Weekly Times, the similar 1978 period.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, the company expects to pay an unchanged dividend for 1979. Last year it paid a net of 18 francs per share.

Company chairman M Michel Captain told a group of financial analysts that current world uncertainties should not pose any major problem in the recycling of capital. It was to reduce the dollar as an international asset, and no country wanted its reserve to be used as a reserve asset, he said.

Consistent reports in Melbourne, where the Herald group is based, claimed that Mr Murdoch planned to use his influence to help stop the newspaper from Melbourne in competition with the Melbourne Herald—the Herald group's main publication.

The Murdoch takeover bid ended in the face of tough opposition from Herald shareholders and severe criticism of a number of shareholders.

The Australian Journalists' Association as well as federal politicians attacked the bid as a Murdoch attempt to gain monopoly of Australia's media.

Mr Murdoch said that his group had to reconsider its unsuccessful bid for control of the Herald and Weekly Times Group.

Mr Murdoch said in a statement that, despite the Herald's planned one-for-two bonus share issue, its stock closed at £3.45 in Melbourne.

**INTERNATIONAL**

Net turnover for Jacques Borel Int. 1.65bn francs (about £35.4m) from 152m.

Group's third party sales in the first nine months of this year were 16 per cent higher than at the same time a year ago but would have been 19 per cent higher at unchanged exchange rates.

**Jacques Borel Int**

The Boeing Corporation has asked for a listing of its shares on Swiss bourses from early next year, a Zurich bourse spokesman announced.

An application was received by the federal bourse authorities but neither the National Bank nor yet given their final approval, he said.

**Boeing seeks listing**

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An application was received by the federal bourse authorities but neither the National Bank nor yet given their final approval, he said.

**GROUP SUMMARISED TRADING RESULTS (unaudited)**

	6 months to 30.6.79	6 months to 30.6.78	Year to 31.12.78
	£000	£000	£000
Turnover	89,000	80,500	163,200
Profit before tax	3,600	3,300	7,526
Tax	(1,875)	(1,725)	(3,527)
Profit after tax	1,725	1,575	3,999
Minority interests	25	(35)	(84)
Extraordinary items	(40)	(115)	(305)
Attributable profits	1,710	1,425	3,610

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Triplex Foundries down by 31 pc

Strikes in the engineering industry helped to send profits of Triplex Foundries falling by 31 per cent to £696,554 against £1.02m in the six months to September 30, 1979. Turnover during the period was marginally up at £18.9m compared with £17.62m last time.

Foundries was the hardest hit of the group's three main divisions. Although turnover improved slightly, the increase did not reflect 12 months inflation and the £11.5m (£10.7m) figure resulted in pre-tax profits down 49 per cent at £259,000.

Industrial services also suffered a downturn with taxable profits being trimmed by nearly £48,000 to £194,000.

## Advance by ExTel

By Our Financial Staff

Acquisitions during the half-year to September 30, 1979, account for Exchange Telegraph's massive uplift in turnover from £12.76m to £22.95m. During the period under review the group added Royds Advertising through Wigmore Holdings and extended its printing activities by buying Shaw & Sons.

But the uplift in turnover was not reflected in greatly improved profits. Pre-tax profits for the half year only improved by 10 per cent to £1.412m against £1.27m.

Potential profits growth did not materialize during the period because of industrial strike which hit both the printing and advertising arms. Royds suffered from the television summer shut down and the en-

trepreneurial arm, Wigmore Holdings, was seriously affected during August and September not only from a downturn in its City business but also industrial dispute. To a degree this was compensated by a new acquisition, Shaw & Sons which benefited from election printing earlier in the year.

But the chairman, Mr John Harvey reports that most activities in the group showed solid progress. Increased profits were up 10 per cent to £1.412m against £1.27m.

The directors point out that comparative interim profit figures have been adjusted to reflect a change in accounting policy at March 31 1979 relating to the treatment of deferred costs.

QUEEN STREET WAREHOUSE Negotiations for a proposed sale at John Webb's furniture subsidiary are expected to be completed in near future. Proposed purchaser is Mr Leslie Goldbart, a director.

MORE OFFERALL Mr E. R. More O'Ferrall disposed of 80,000 ordinary shares in More O'Ferrall, reducing his holding to 1.6m shares (26.12 per cent).

Recent Issues Closes Price

British Rail Pl. 1979-1980 150p

BP New Drk. 150p

Formermer Rep. 150p

London Tl. 150p-150p

150p-150p

Maritime L. 150p-150p

150p-150p

Whitbread 150p

150p-150p

150p-





## PERSONAL CHOICE



John Alderton and John Gorden in the repeat screening of 'Wife Next Door' (BBC 1, 7.35)

only can talk me out of my conviction that the five minutes which BBC Television has allotted to *Points of View* (1, 10.00pm), in which Barry Took comments on viewers' about the week's programmes, is anything but a gesture. You have only to look at the glassy eyes in Mr Took's eyes as he tries to keep up with a racing

know that he hasn't even the time to deliver his obligatory wry, let alone make anything resembling a constructive reply to *Appalled*, Blackpool. Either the BBC sees some use in this spot, or it doesn't. If it does then it must stop it look like an emergency filler and allow Mr Took the take a breath and the viewer the time to absorb a point.

I not know. I must admit, that 40 per cent of the available sports centres is taken up by badminton, and I am to the BBC for this information. I feel I will be indebted corporation, too, for much more enlightenment about the and how not to play it, as a result of *Better Badminton* (7.00), a new series of five programmes that begins tonight. I am sure that the tuition will be of a high order, our teacher is, however, an England national coach who has helped shape career of champions like Gillian Gilks. Tonight, too, we go to see the Duke of Beaufort's seat, to see how the the played in the 1870s.

Atically speaking, the night's music-making on Radio 3 is by a complete performance of Shostakovich's four-act *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* (7.30, 8.35 and 9.50). The baton isovich. His wife, the soprano Galina Vishnevskaya, sings role, one which is only a distant cousin of Shakespeare's. A remarkable cast includes Petkov, Krein, Gedda and Tear. As for the spoken word tonight, I would recommend her Burton (Radio 4, 4.10) in which P. H. Burton, the who gave a young Welsh actor called Richard Jenkins a name as well as a new direction life, talks about too. The interview, with Paul Ferris putting the questions, ordered in Florida where the other Burton now lives.

THE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO; \* BLACK AND WHITE; = EAT.

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to Candidates aged 26-40 who have acquired either a minimum of three years' stockbroking experience and not less than three years' oil sector analysis, or three years working in either an oil company or other organisation specialising in analysis of the oil industry. Responsibilities will cover the analysis of oil companies on an international basis with special emphasis on the North Sea and open Continent, and the provision of research material to institutions. OASE 3850/TT.

## CHEMICALS ANALYST

£10,000-£14,500

to Candidates aged 26-35 with a minimum of three years analytical experience in the chemicals sector. Responsibilities will be to analyse and interpret data on behalf of the company. Reference: CASE 3951/TT.

## INSTITUTIONAL SALES EXECUTIVE

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Applications are invited from Institutional Sales Executives aged 25-35 who have established useful ties with U.K. institutions, and may be employed either by a stockbroker, merchant bank, insurance company or other financial organisation. Responsibility will cover the selling to U.K. institutions of mainly European and domestic chemical and oil shares. A permissive and a polished manner are important. Reference: CASE 3952/TT.

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Voluntary Service Overseas  
DIRECTOR

More than 30 COUNTRIES in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean project to VSO an increasing variety of roles for skilled volunteers. VSO responds when satisfied that their deployment will lead towards, and not substitute for, a country's self-sufficiency.

ALMOST 1000 VSO volunteers are now at work abroad, each for two years or more. The £3M UK budget underpins development work overseas worth several millions more.

THE PRESENT DIRECTOR, David Collett, will be leaving next year after seven years' service. His successor who may come from almost any field, will be working with 4 Assistant Directors and some 80 paid staff (60 in London and 20 abroad), answering directly to the Council, whose Chairman is The Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald CMG.

AN INFORMED VISION of conditions in developing countries and of what British volunteers may realistically hope to achieve is essential; as are proven managerial, organising and administrative skills, the capacity to delegate, to assess risks and quench fruitless ventures, to stimulate, to communicate, and to inspire.

TERMS will be negotiated in confidence. Much travel in Britain and overseas is involved. Provision exists for active-figure starting salary. Age range: 30's to early 50's.

WRITE either directly to VSO or in confidence to the Consultant advising the Council. (The Consultant will reveal nothing to anyone without leave, to be sought after preliminary interviewing). Letters containing adequate factual information should be addressed either to the Vice-Chairman—Lord Carnarvon or to the Consultant—M. J. Graham-Jones, Voluntary Service Overseas, 9 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PW.

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## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davall

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

9.05 am *For Schools*, Colleges, 9.05 pm *Roundabout*, France, 9.25 pm *Letterbox*, 10.15 pm *Talkabout*, 10.35 pm *Going to Work* (horticulture), 11.00 pm *Eye of the Fy* (r). 11.25 pm *You and Me* repeat of *Going Down*. 11.40 pm *For Schools*, Colleges, 11.40 pm *Everyday Maths*. 12.05 pm *Teatime Ltd* (4). Both repeats. *Closedown* at 12.30. 12.45 pm *News and weather*. 1.00 pm *Pebble Mill at One*: includes Peter Seaborne's gardening feature. *Dig for Victory*. 1.15 pm *Country Green*: the story of Roger Varley the Sweep (r). 1.30 pm *For Schools*, Colleges, 2.02 pm *Claire Rayner's personal view*, 2.35 pm *A Good Job with Prospects* (law and accountancy); both repeats. *Closedown* at 3.00. 3.15 pm *Bob Curn*: Welsh serial. 3.30 pm *School*: the story of The Magic Fan. 4.20 pm *Mazdog*: cartoon from Czechoslovakia.

## BBC 2

1.05 pm *For Schools*, Colleges, 1.05 pm *Roundabout*, France, 1.25 pm *Letterbox*, 1.45 pm *Country Green*: the story of Roger Varley the Sweep (r). 2.02 pm *For Schools*, Colleges, 2.02 pm *Claire Rayner's personal view*, 2.35 pm *A Good Job with Prospects* (law and accountancy); both repeats. *Closedown* at 3.00. 3.15 pm *Bob Curn*: Welsh serial. 3.30 pm *School*: the story of The Magic Fan. 4.20 pm *Mazdog*: cartoon from Czechoslovakia.

## THAMES

7.00 pm *Points of View*: Barry Took comments on viewers' letters (see *Personal Choice*). 7.05 pm *Phil Silvers*: re-run of one of the old Sergeant Bilko stories, to remind us how good they were. 7.15 pm *Film*: *Madigan* (1968) New York police drama, starring Richard Widmark. Henry Fonda and James Caan. *Madigan*, the police, no punches and in the canon of directors for Don Siegel's films, is highly regarded. *Closedown* at 7.20.

## Regions

10.00 pm *News*.

10.05 pm *Desert Island Discs*.

10.15 pm *Engage Within*.

10.30 pm *From Our Correspondent*.

10.30 pm *Daily Service*.

10.45 pm *Hand in Hand* (3).

11.00 pm *News*.

11.05 pm *You the Jury*.

11.30 pm *News*.

12.00 pm *Tom and Jerry*: the cartoon *South Bound Decking*.

7.05 pm *You're Being Served*: comedy series about a department store.

Tonight: an experiment in self-taught school children.

7.35 pm *My Wife Next Door*: repeat of the 1972 series of comedies about a newly-divorced couple (John Alderton and Hannah Gordon).

8.05 pm *Peniarth*: episode 2 of this series of comedies about a newly-divorced couple (John Alderton and Hannah Gordon).

8.30 pm *News*.

8.45 pm *Letterbox*, France, 9.00 pm *News*.

9.05 pm *Lena Martell in Concert*: the solo singer, in a show recorded at the Big Top at Falmouth.

9.30 pm *News*.

10.00 pm *Barry Took* comments on viewers' letters (see *Personal Choice*).

10.05 pm *Phil Silvers*: re-run of one of the old Sergeant Bilko stories, to remind us how good they were.

10.15 pm *Film*: *Madigan* (1968) New York police drama, starring Richard Widmark. Henry Fonda and James Caan. *Madigan*, the police, no punches and in the canon of directors for Don Siegel's films, is highly regarded. *Closedown* at 12.30.

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8.15 pm *Film*: *Madigan* (1968) New York police drama, starring Richard Widmark. Henry Fonda and James Caan. *Madigan*, the police, no punches and in the canon of directors for Don Siegel's films, is highly regarded. *Closedown* at 10.30.

10.45 pm *News and weather*.

11.00 pm *Barry Took* comments on viewers' letters (see *Personal Choice*).

11.05 pm *Phil Silvers*: re-run of one of the old Sergeant Bilko stories, to remind us how good they were.

11.15 pm *Film*: *Madigan* (1968) New York police drama, starring Richard Widmark. Henry Fonda and James Caan. *Madigan*, the police, no punches and in the canon of directors for Don Siegel's films, is highly regarded. *Closedown* at 12.30.

12.45 pm *News and weather*.

1.00 pm *Barry Took* comments on viewers' letters (see *Personal Choice*).

2.00 pm *Phil Silvers*: re-run of one of the old Sergeant Bilko stories, to remind us how good they were.

2.15 pm *Film*: *Madigan* (1968) New York police drama, starring Richard Widmark. Henry Fonda and James Caan. *Madigan*, the police, no punches and in the canon of directors for Don Siegel's films, is highly regarded. *Closedown* at 4.30.

4.45 pm *News and weather*.

5.00 pm *Barry Took* comments on viewers' letters (see *Personal Choice*).

5.05 pm *Phil Silvers*: re-run of one of the old Sergeant Bilko stories, to remind us how good they were.

5.15 pm *Film*: *Madigan* (1968) New York police drama, starring Richard Widmark. Henry Fonda and James Caan. *Madigan*, the police, no punches and in the canon of directors for Don Siegel's films, is highly regarded. *Closedown* at 7.20.

7.30 pm *News and weather*.

8.00 pm *Barry Took* comments on viewers' letters (see *Personal Choice*).

8.05 pm *Phil Silvers*: re-run of one of the old Sergeant Bilko stories, to remind us how good they were.

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01-837 1334 extn. 7180

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of Times Newspapers Limited,  
copies of which are available  
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We make every effort to avoid  
errors in advertisements. Each  
one is carefully checked and  
proof read. When thousands of  
advertisements are handled,  
each day mistakes do occur  
and, if you spot an  
error, report it to the Classified  
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For Monday's issue the dead-  
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will be issued to the advertiser.  
On any subsequent queries  
regarding the cancellation, this  
Stop Number must be quoted.

... what doth the Lord thy God  
require of thee, but to fear the  
Lord thy God, to love him, to  
serve the Lord thy God, and to  
walk in his ways? And to love him  
will be to do justice, and to  
hate iniquity, and to cleave  
unto thy God.

—Deuteronomy 10:13.

BIRTHS

ATHORPE — On November 1st,  
in Oaktree, Ontario, Canada, 19,  
Clare, 1st, Peter, 2nd, and  
John, 3rd, sons of John  
and Shirley, 2nd, and Shirley,  
3rd, and Shirley, 4th, and Shirley,  
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